

# TATTOO LIFE

TATTOO LIFE

# life

n° 72

£ 3.95

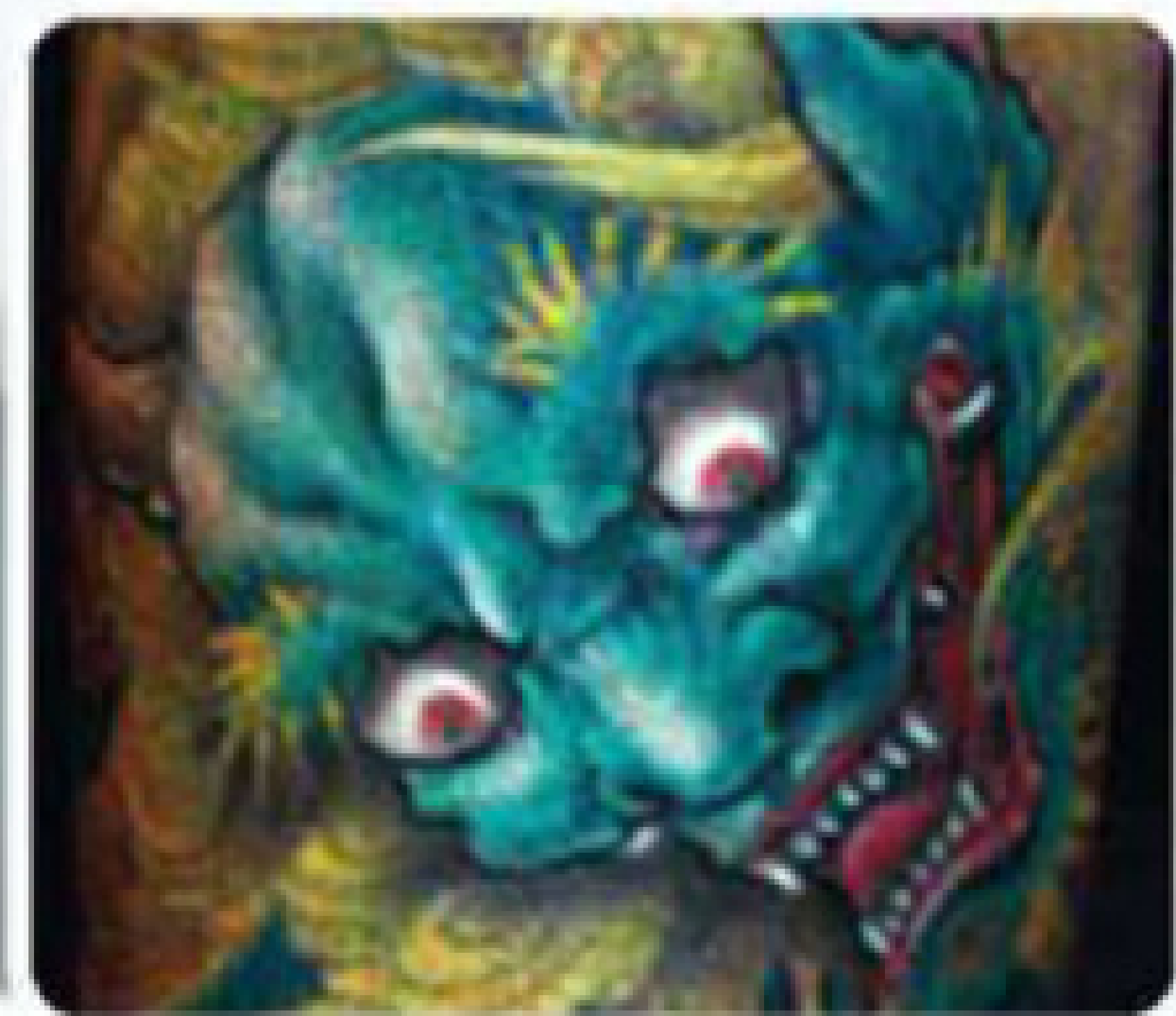
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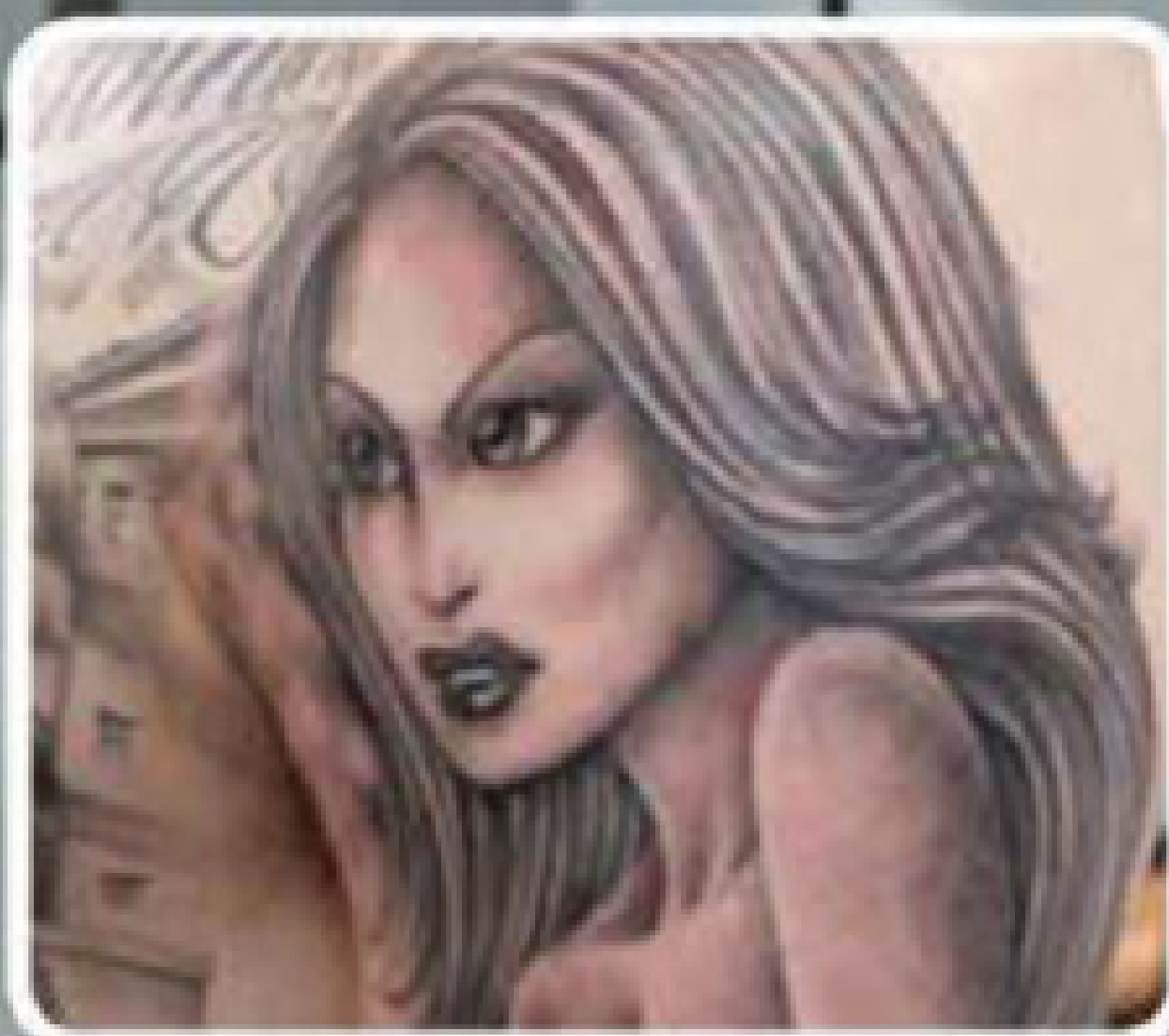
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## CANG LONG

CHINESE FAIRY  
TALES AND  
ORIENTAL  
PERFECTION



## JACK RUDY

THE FINE LINE  
OF THE LEGENDARY  
AMERICAN  
TATTOO ARTIST

**WHO'S WHO**  
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**MUSIC**  
NIKKI SIXX

**CULTURE**  
CHICANO  
TATTOO

**CONVENTIONS**  
NATIONAL  
FRANKFURT  
NEPAL  
VIVA LAS VEGAS





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2011

Number 6

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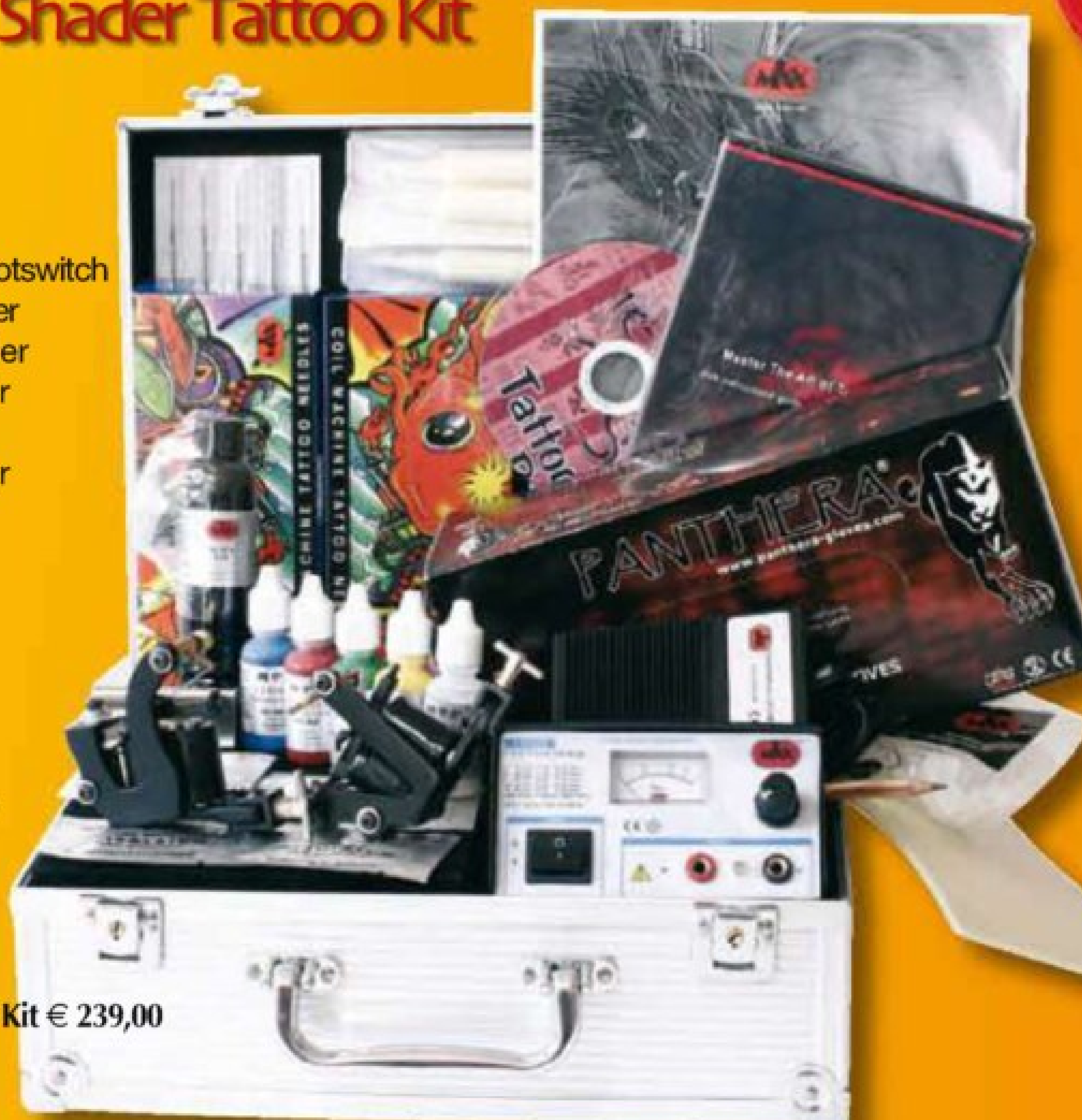
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Release: StoreMags & FantaMag

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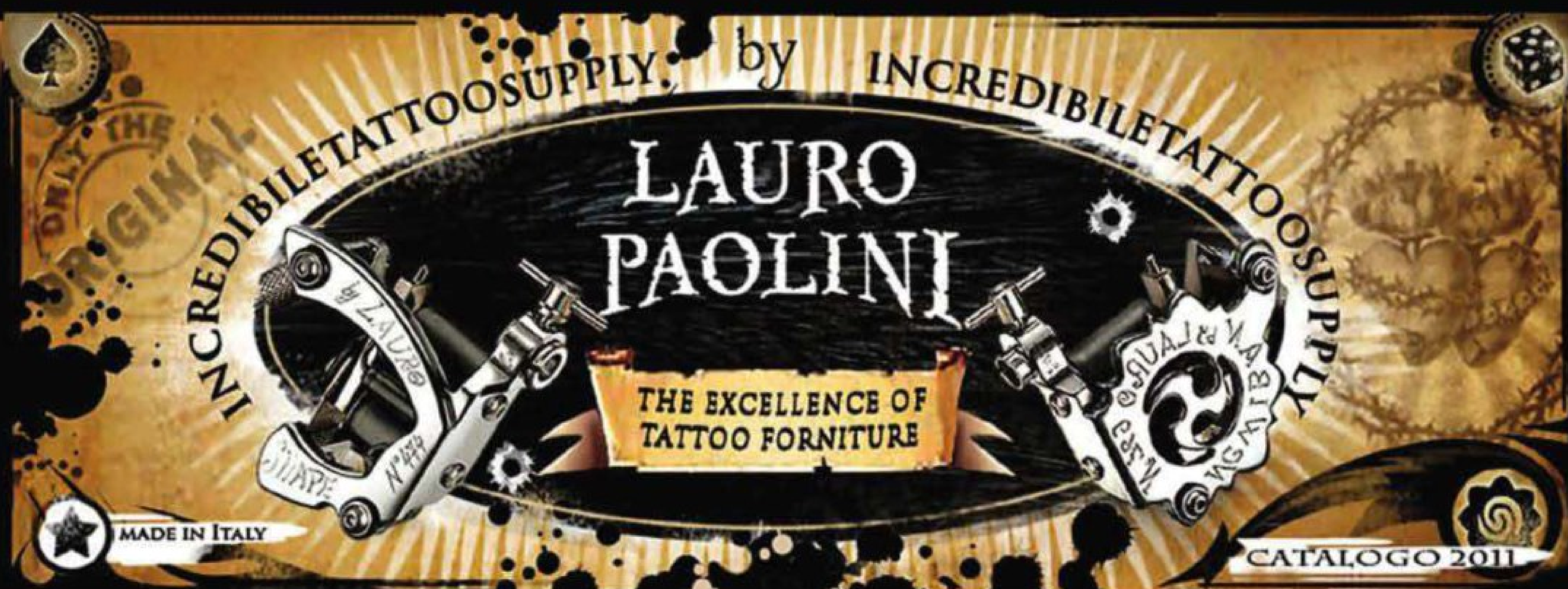


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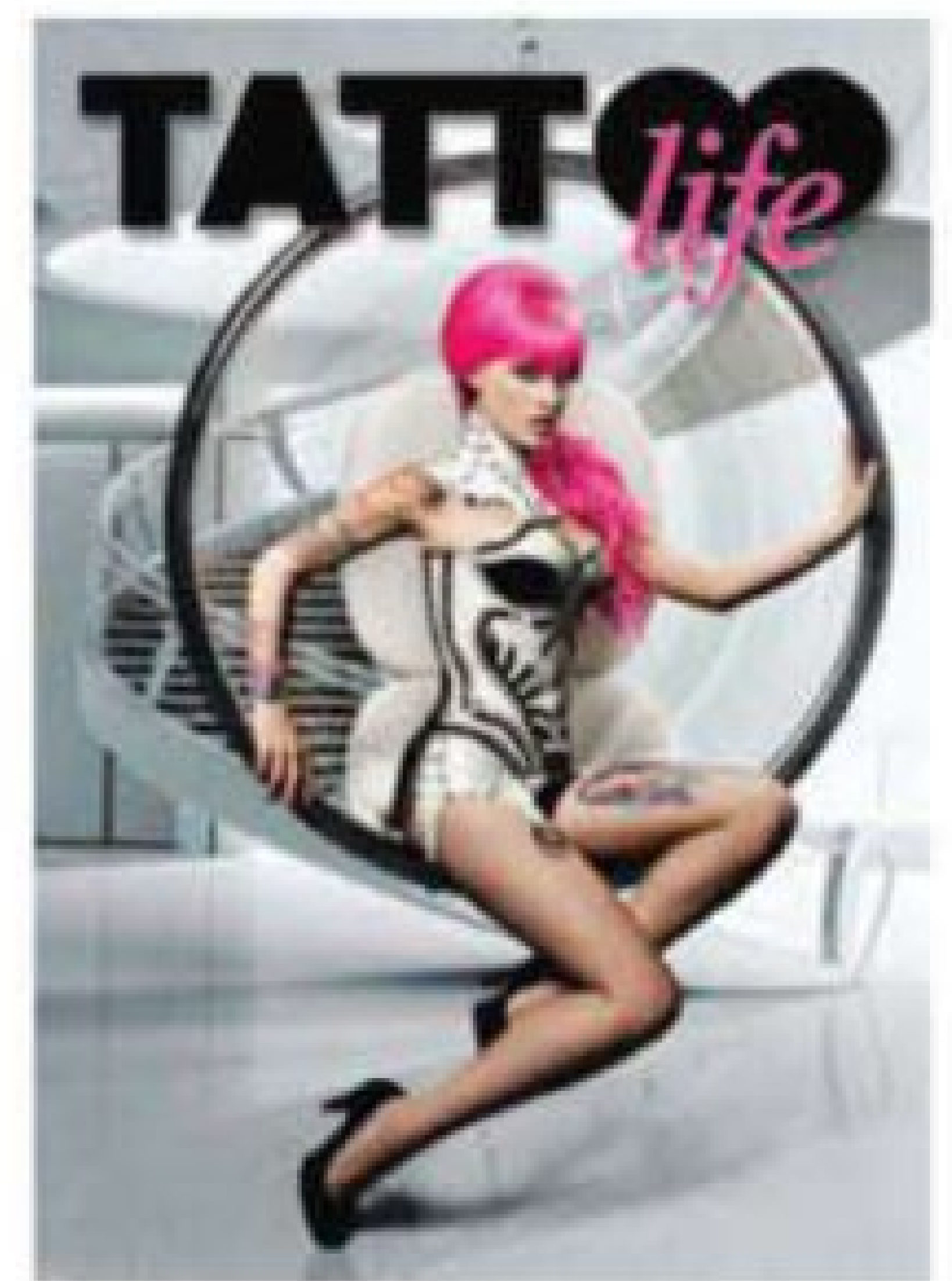
## Lost languages

**T**he art of tattooing is something that embraces knowledge and many different influences. It assimilates them and brings them together, but more often it allows them to keep their identity thus drawing attention, highlighting cultures and images that otherwise would risk disappearing forever.

Just to make an example, according to UNESCO over 200 hundred languages in the world seriously risk extinction in the next few years. Among these are many dialects spoken only by a few dozen people in the area around Amazonia, Africa or among some native North-American tribes. But caution: even languages like Tibetan and Maori aren't doing too well either. Crushed by globalization, the local language of certain populations – which are also implicit philosophies and powerful means of cultural transmission – may be swept away by the four or five more powerful languages. The countries which can count on cultural industry, entertainment, computer science, music and TV can really penetrate into the minds of the younger generations, forcing their language upon them in a progressive and almost natural way. "Minor" languages don't have the proper weapons to fight back and often they are tied to the local religious traditions, which are impossible to export. Well, it's nice to see that one of these weapons – especially over the past years – is tattoo. And tattoo art, thanks to its nature is often used to bring the Tibetan alphabet on people's skin or the Maori symbology which in turn represents their language. Not to mention the rediscovery of the symbolic codes of the kabala and of the Jewish language (in certain cases even ancient Aramaic) thanks to its widespread presence on the skin of people. The words written in these languages become magic symbols worn by people who really do perform magic: they prevent an entire linguistic heritage, which is already in danger, from disappearing and they help westerners – the people living in the countries where the "dominating" languages are spoken – understand that there is "another" world that just might be worth discovering and studying. Who will ever thank UNESCO?

by Miki Vialetto

Photography: Christian Saint  
thechristiansaint@gmail.com  
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kellyedenofficial@gmail.com  
Tattoos by: Nikko Hortado,  
Black Anchor Collective, USA  
(Right arm sleeve and Left thigh)  
Roman, Art Junkies, USA  
(Back upper Left side)  
Diamond outline  
by Kelly Eden (Ankle)  
Makeup: Christina Schock  
Hair: Anthony Michael Cress  
Designers: Clothing - Eirik Aswang  
Black Feather Collar - Black Lotus



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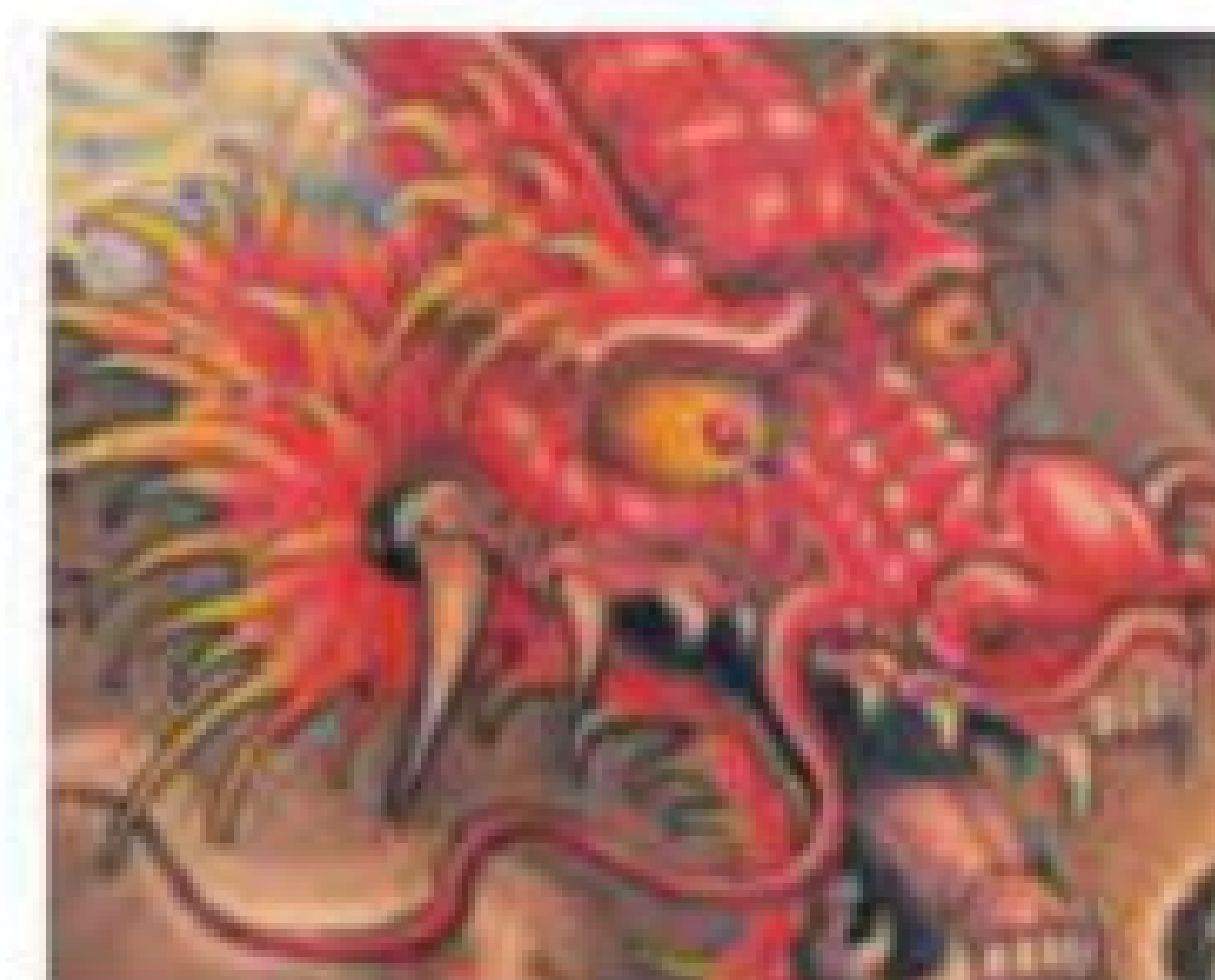
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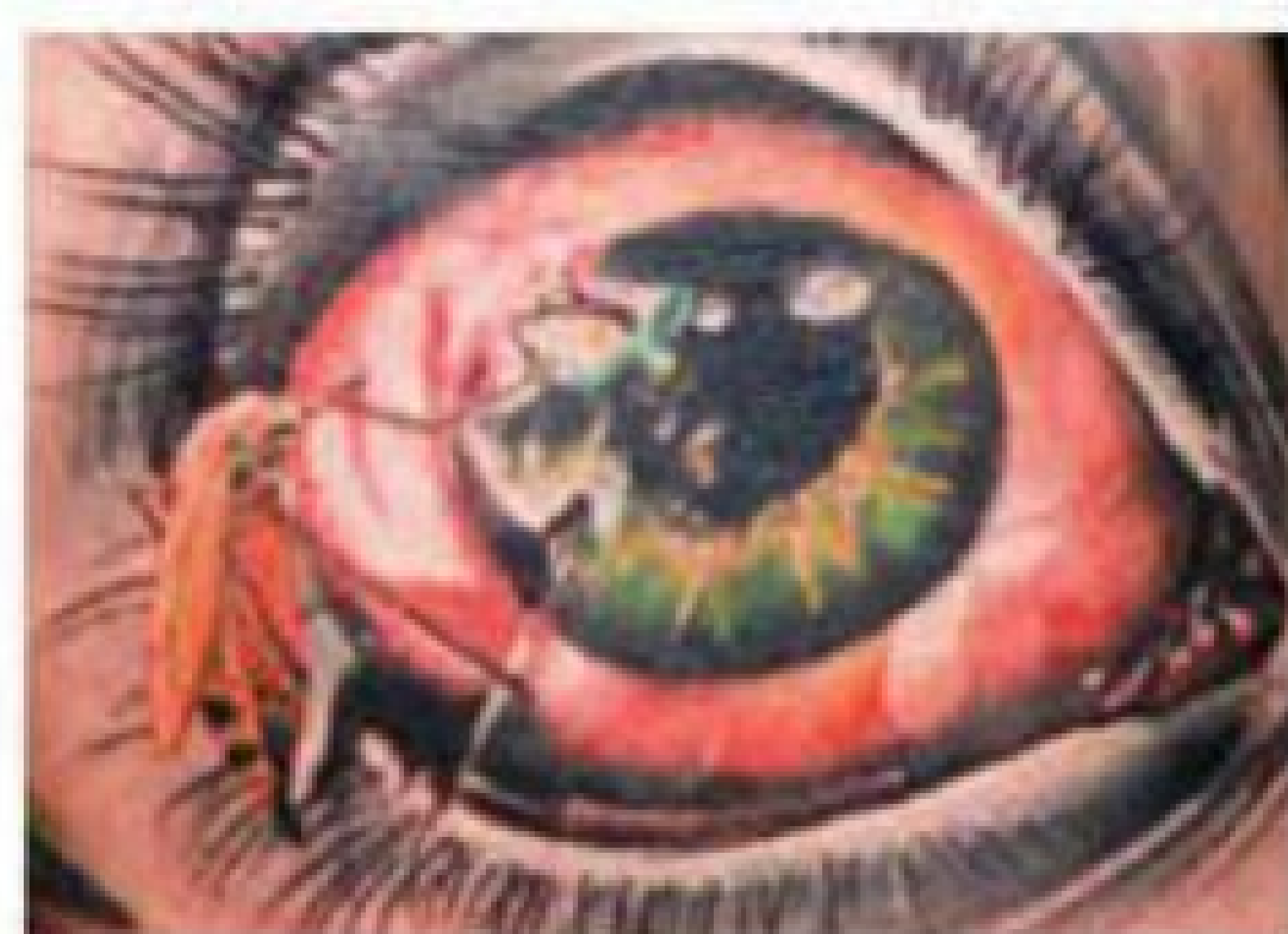
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## TATTOO life

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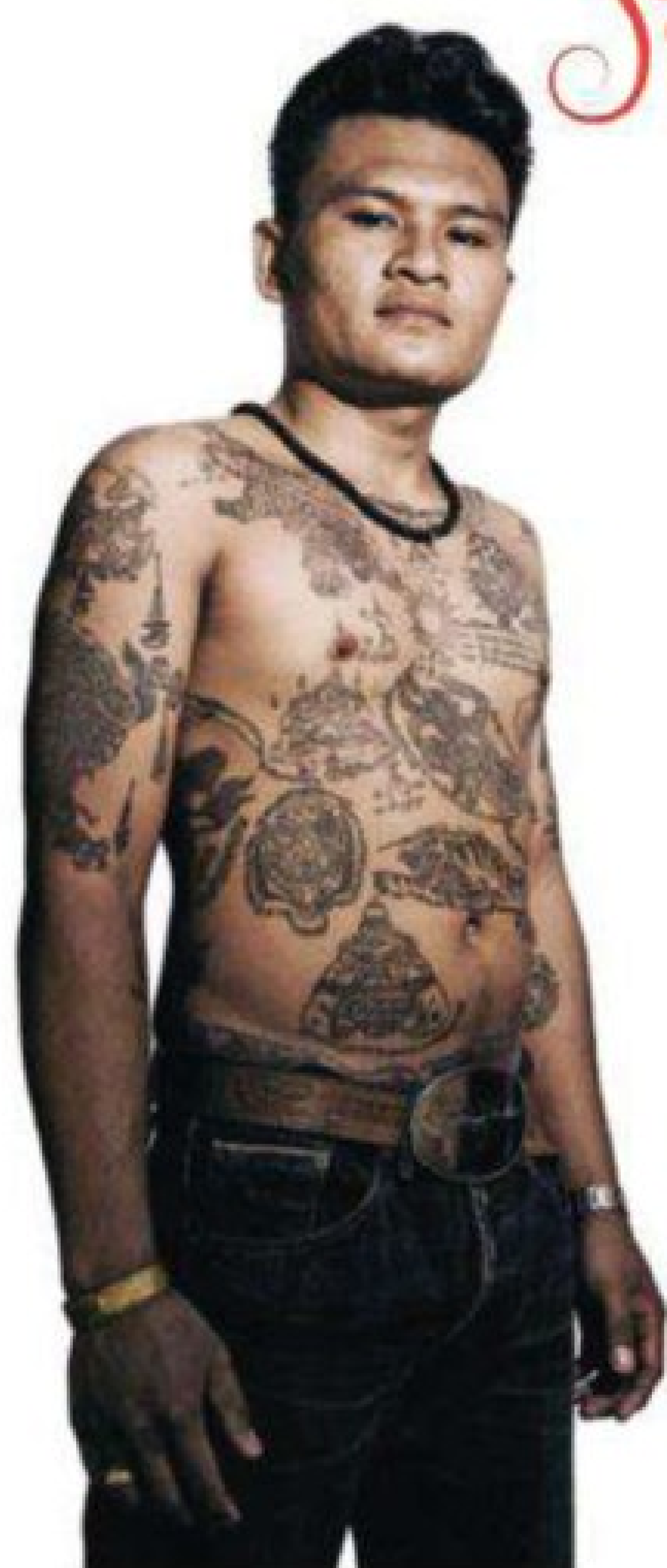
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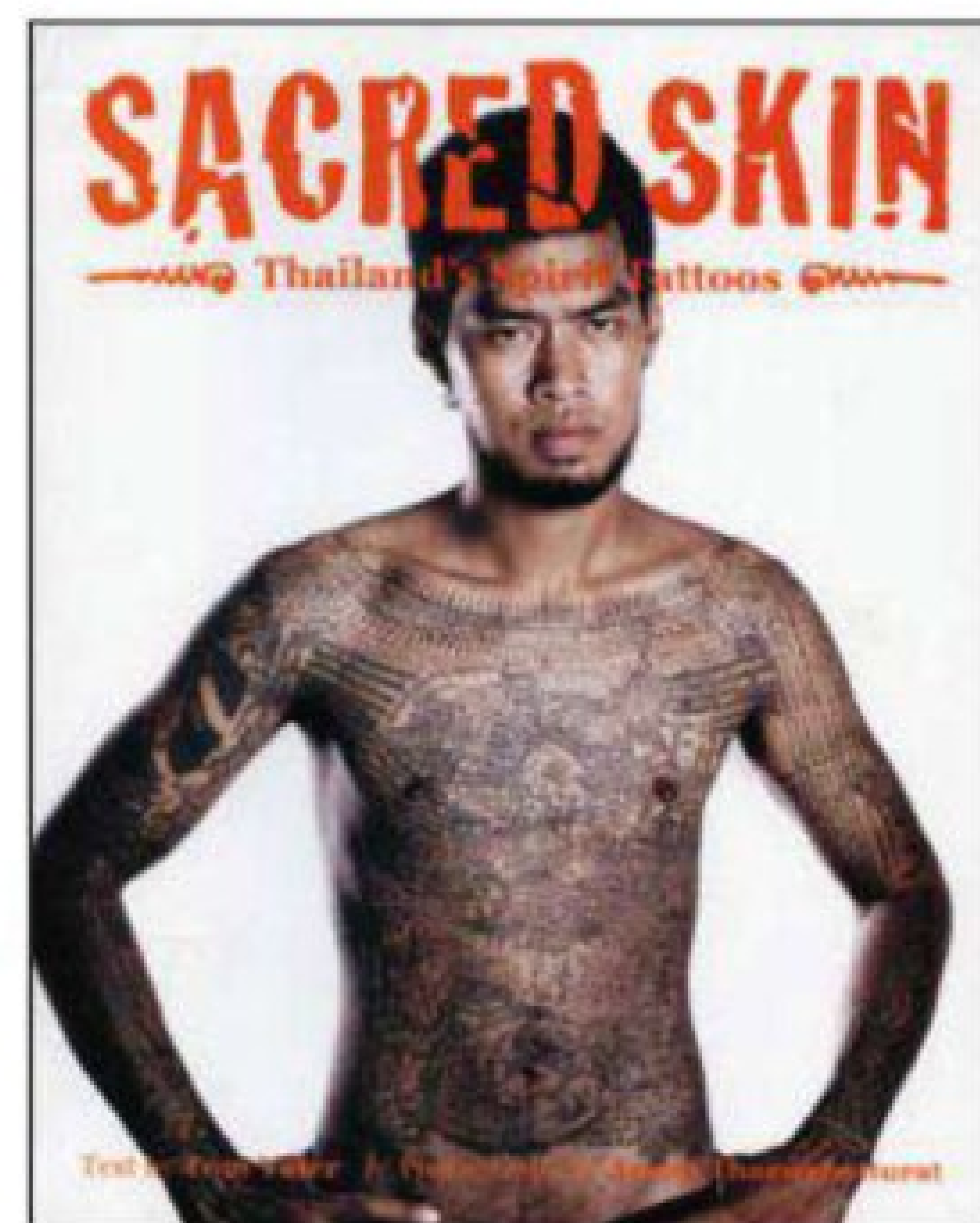
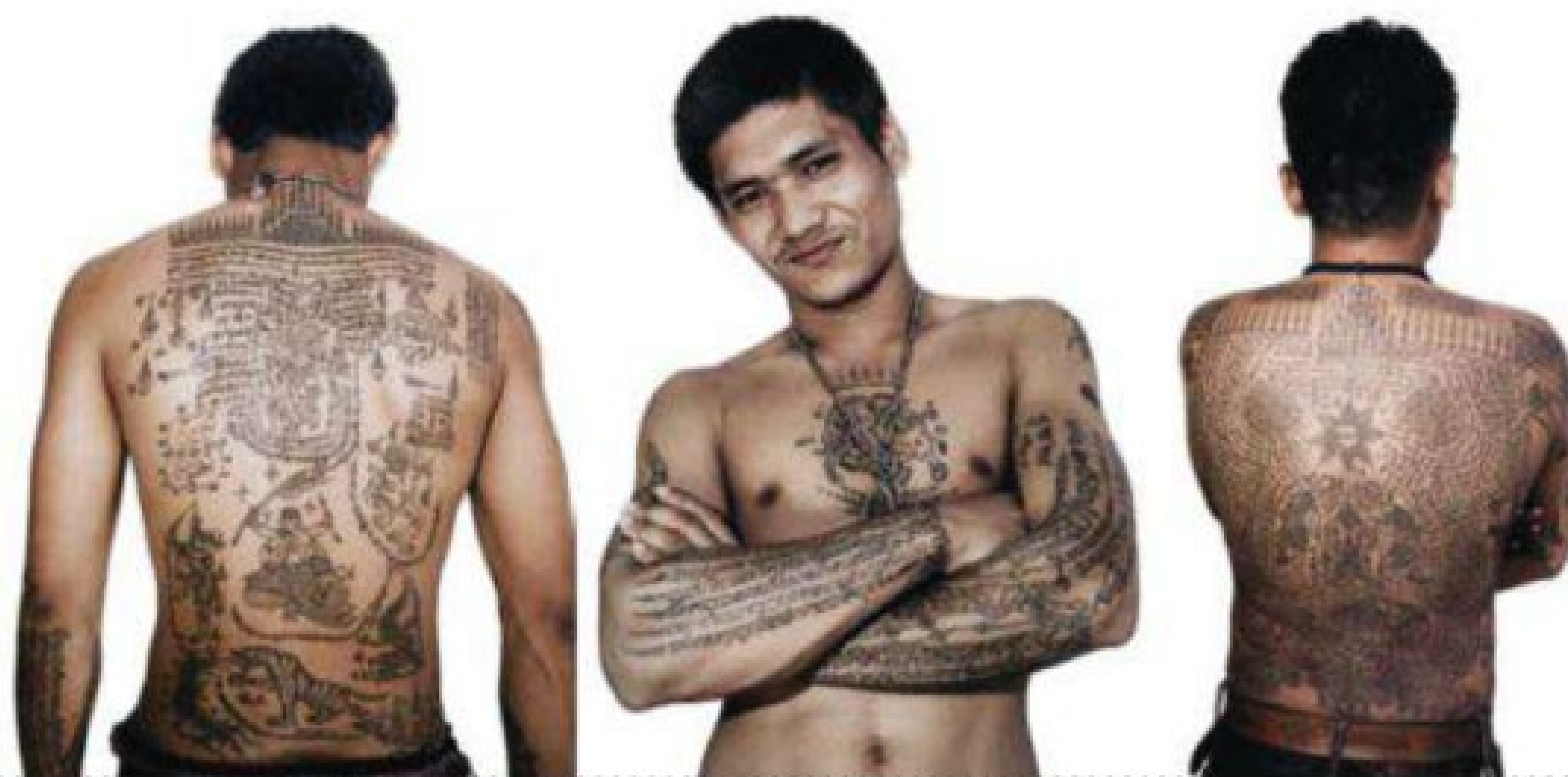
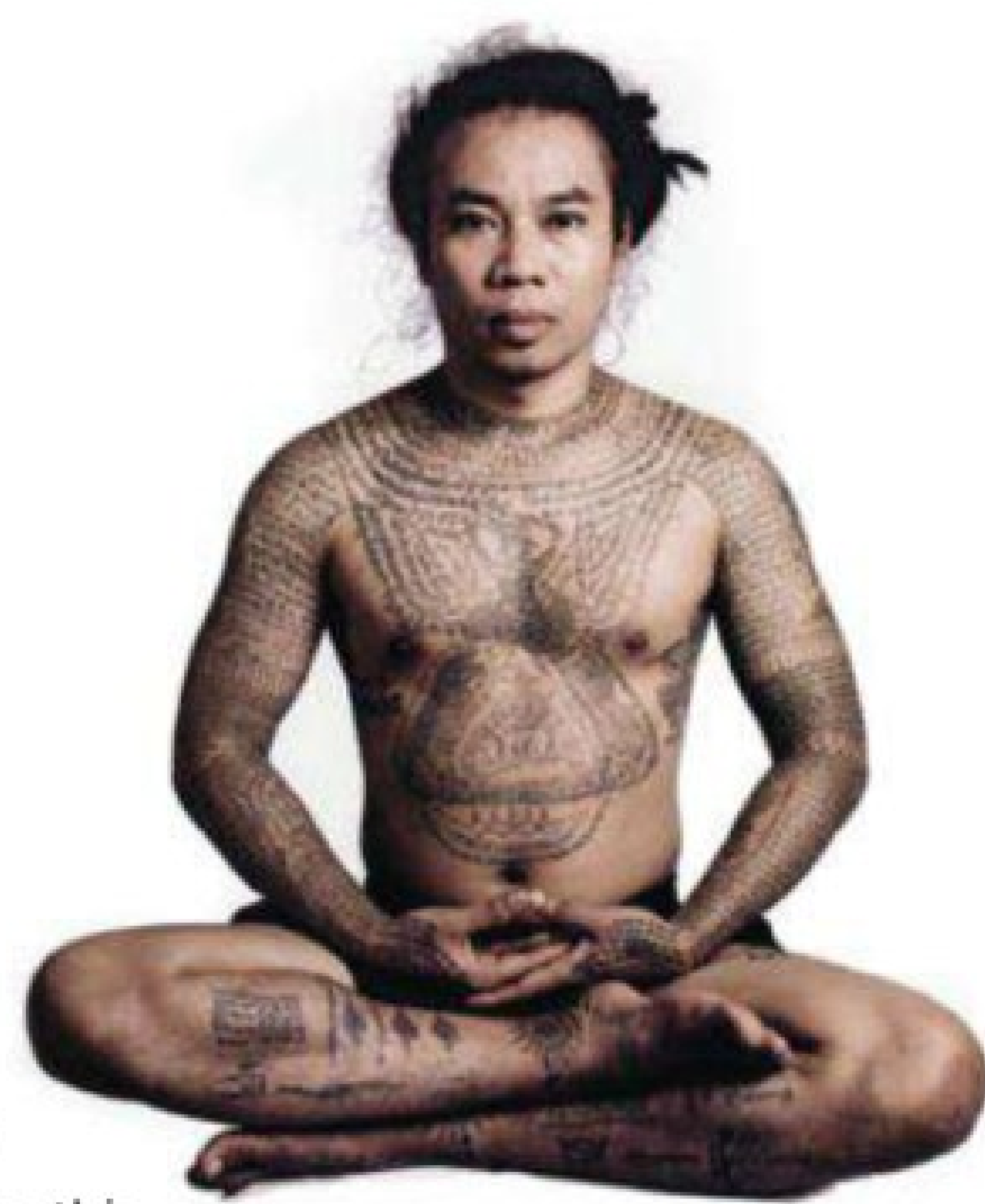
Thailand's Spirit Tattoos



*Sacred Skin*  
Thailand's Spirit Tattoos  
Publisher: Visionary World  
Hardcover, 200 colour pages  
[www.sacredskinthailand.com](http://www.sacredskinthailand.com)

Simple and clean this is an essential book that has almost everything on tribal Thai tattoos. Thailand's Spirit Tattoos is a large photographic collection by Aaron Thaewchatturat that collects all the sacred icons of Thailand's tattoos. A final appendix lists them one by one from the dragon, to the elephant, up to geometric and the lion. For each one there are key images of art on skin. And before this 120

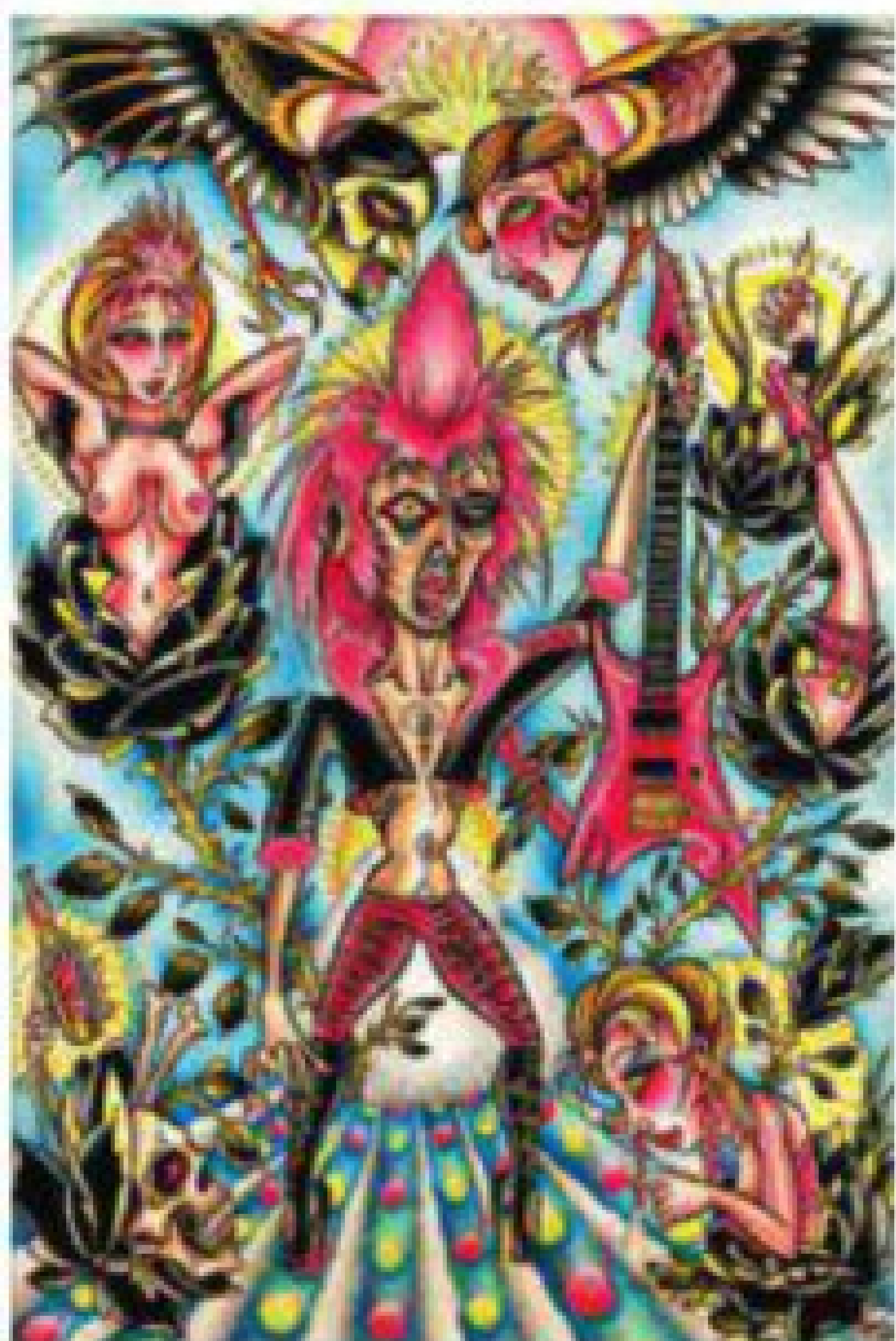
pages of "naked" portraits of men by themselves, because this book shows us that tattoo still today is not simply a decoration for the body but a re-interpretation of the soul.



## A NOVEL IDEA?

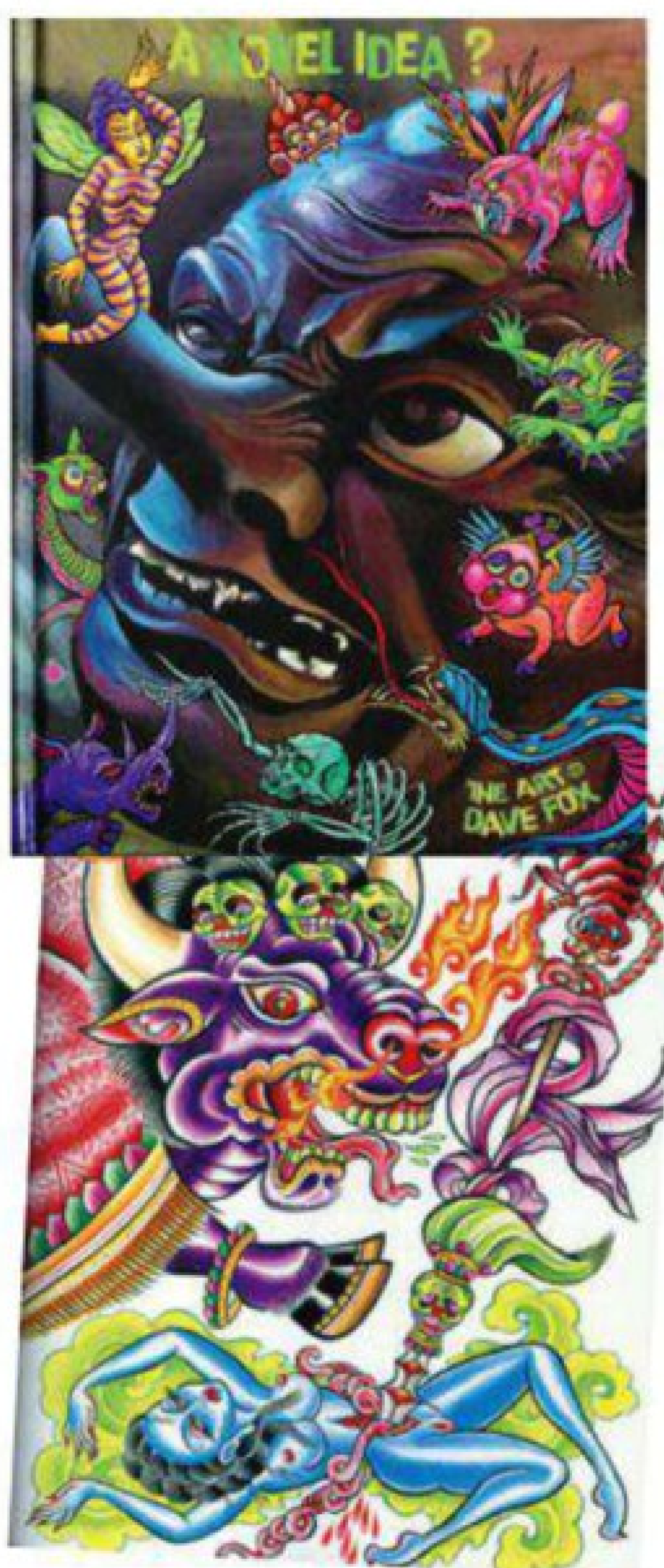
*The art of Dave Fox*

Monsters, demons, evil animals and colored skeletons. This book is dedicated to horror comics! Ripped open ladies with hard nipples, monsters looking divine, horses and women embraced in power



orgies with a punk look and hardcore images! A varied, hybrid book rich in provocations, lots of color and in a large format. A great source of inspiration for those who love the cartoon and comics genre. And also a great chance to understand Dave Fox's irreverent art.

*A Novel Idea?*  
The Art of Dave Fox  
Publisher: Presto  
Hardcover  
[www.prestoart.com](http://www.prestoart.com)



## HANNYA REFERENCE

Take your mask!

A handbook for those who love oriental tattoo art and want to search for something specific in the universe of the masks of the demon Hannya, one of the most debated and much-discussed figures of the Oriental tradition. Hannya represents a female demon tormented and suffering, symbol of the dichotomy of human emotions. This handbook (40 pages in thick paper, bound by a metal spiral) perfectly fulfills its objective: understanding the shape of the mask in 3D with the outline drawing on the side, to use and finish using color. Thanks Matthew Amey for this "must have"!

*Hannya Reference*  
by Matthew Amey  
40 black and white pages  
[www.kingpintattoosupply.com](http://www.kingpintattoosupply.com)







# NORDIC TATTOOING

by Jon Nordstrøm



You will certainly remember him because Jon Nordstrøm was already the author of the precious book on Danish tattoo, Danish Tattooing. This time the author is trying again and is publishing with Nordstroms this new

book, Nordic Tattooing. A very interesting book about the history of tattoo in northern Europe and the designs of the past 100 years. Flash, tattoo photos, photos of the artists in person and while they are working. An amazing book for those who love the art of tattooing but also its history in all its shades and who do not want to miss any secrets.

*Nordic Tattooing*  
*Nordic Tattooist and their drawings*  
 by Jon Nordstrøm  
 Publisher: Nordstroms  
 Hardcover, 320 colour pages  
[www.gentlemanstattooflash.com](http://www.gentlemanstattooflash.com)



# Latex Style

Extreme Fashion

Extreme, funny, underground, elegant, artificial... These are just a few of the thousands of shades of a latex dress. But this photographic collection will draw your attention and inspire the most avid tattoo fans. Latex Fashion Photography published by Goliath is a collection of the 1000 faces of latex, with over 350 color pages that show the various trends with an appendix and an updated directory with the best latex dress designers and shops. So if you are curious about latex and you love the style don't miss this book.

*Latex Fashion Photography*  
 Publisher: Goliath  
 Hardcover, 385 colour pages  
[www.goliathbooks.com](http://www.goliathbooks.com)



# KICKS JAPAN

## TOKYO STREET CULTURE

A book that combines the beauty for street fashion with the passion for sneakers, the art of Japan and the Oriental world. Tokyo is the place where the most urban trends live and evolve. The greatest sneaker designers live here, they take inspiration from these places and spread them throughout the world. This book contains interviews with the designers, with beautiful shoe photos, models and images of the city as you have never before seen it. But this book collects the ideas and most interesting trends of the future,



so among traditional designers here come graffiti artists, skateboarders and tattoo artists, all called to innovate and make the passion for sneakers culture more creative. As the saying goes, you can't understand a man completely until you wear his shoes!

*Kicks Japan*  
 by Manami Okazaki & Geoffrey Johnson  
 Publisher: Mark Batty Publisher  
 Hardcover, 176 colour pages  
<http://markbattypublisher.com>



# TRACY EMIN

## LOVE IS WHAT YOU WANT



Why Tracy Emin? Because she is Brut, graffiti, biting, underground, irreverent and even traditional. A mixture of trends intertwined one with the other in this exhibition you just can't miss, "Love is What You Want" includes a long series of works, from the older ones to the most recent, displayed in a wonderful way that enables the visitor to enjoy them to the max. Tracy Emin's works come very close to the tattoo world, carrying the aspiration for the absolute, but they all start from an autobiographic need and, often, love for what is irreverent.

Until August, 29th



# SHOPPING

TATTOO, ART AND DESIGN. IRONY, BEAUTY, CLASSICISM AND PROPORTION OF SHAPES. CHANGE IS IN THE AIR AND GREAT NAMES LIKE GAGOSIAN AND CERRUTI BALERI RISE TO THE CHALLENGE OF ALTERNATIVE ARTS. WILD ROSES PROPOSES OUTFIT MINIMAL AND TATTOOED BRACELETS WITH BURSTING IRONY. LENITA AND ED HARDY ARE A MUST FOR THE SUMMER SEASON WITH SKIMPY BATHING SUITS FOR THE FORMER AND IRONIC CASES FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES THE LATTER. BUT IN THIS SOCIAL 2.0 AGE WE CAN'T FORGET ABOUT ETSY GLOBALIZED CRAFTSMANSHIP, THIS TIME WITH THE MONETTI BAGS AND SEWZINSKI PORCELAINS.

## Lenita Canarias' Choice

### Girls on the move!

Lenita once again is the queen of the beach. An amazing set of bikinis and dresses will certainly suit the taste even of the trendiest girls out there. An array of colors is offered to adapt to your tattoos. Soft lines and wide volumes reinterpret the pin-up fashion but without looking back, mixing the taste for the past with the lightness of the magic summer energy filled with news and changes. And even more,



this year beauty beach clutches with a total tattoo look!

[www.lenita.es](http://www.lenita.es)

## WILD ROSE

### Tattoo Apparel

Organic material, soft cotton with straight cuts, designed on the body. The collection for him and her in a wide range of prints or flat colors, for minimalists. But there is also a surprise and it is not in the design of the volumes and lengths of the models, all designed to make you look your best and show off your tattoos. The surprise is in the flesh color bracelets, nylon decorated with the most elaborate traditional and oriental compositions. You wear them like an arm-sock to



dress up your skin. You can buy directly from their e-commerce site...Take a look!

[www.wildrosetattooshirts.com](http://www.wildrosetattooshirts.com)

## Ed Hardy

### Go digital!

That our legendary Ed Hardy missed something is practically impossible! Besides a men and women's clothing line, there are also accessories and among these some dedicated to technology fans, iPod and iPad cases. Those who just can't live without their technological instruments – and I think there are a few out there! – will certainly find Ed Hardy's items super cool. The cases he makes to protect our technological devices, particularly useful to always be online and updated even on the beach. Some items also in a limited series: don't miss the exclusive offer!

[www.edhardyshop.com](http://www.edhardyshop.com)  
<http://edhardyshop.com>





## GAGOSIAN

### Artist Skateboard Decks for sale!

Unique and rare pieces, not to hang on walls but for your free time (if you are really up to it!). Finally snowboards decorated by the finest contemporary artists are here, from the most controversial artists such as Damien Hirst, Takashi Murakami, Jeff Koons... For those of you who are familiar with underground art this is nothing new, but the surprise



is that it is Gagosian to propose a similar pop market intervention! For those who really want to go all the way, we suggest installing professional fittings and hit the slopes as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for the price!

Gagosian  
988 Madison Avenue  
New York NY 10075  
shop@gagosian.com  
www.gagosian.com



## Shopping on blogspot

### Real vintage

Well, you like vintage fashion, right? Useless to say that you have to search the most hidden allies on the net. We selected this interesting blog of a group of Oriental girls (of course!), a second-hand place for original, vintage clothing and accessories. What does



this mean? Certainly, you will find unexpected pieces, but you also have to keep an eye out for the latest news if you want to grab the best pieces. Oh, by the way there is only one item per piece...

<http://shopping-tattoo.blogspot.com>



## CERRUTI BALERI

### by Maurizio Galante + Tal Lancman

Multi-layer wood and shaped polyurethane foam with different densities, covered in 100% silk with Carrara marble photographic print. Maurizio Galante and Tal Lancman created a furniture set inspired both by the most ironic design and the classicism of French décor with the armchair Louis XV goes to Sparta and the

poufs Tattoo Marmi. Oxymoron of materials and density with the elements they recall. The poufs designed by Maurizio Galante are also covered with silk with the images of hippo, white rabbit, tiger and orang-outang skulls printed on it...Photographic images that, after putting the cover on the pouf, become three-



dimensional! Pieces you just can't miss especially if you want that touch of original elegance.

[www.cerrutibaleri.com](http://www.cerrutibaleri.com)

## SEWZINSKI

### Unique porcelain cups

Travel cups made in white porcelain and hand painted with icons taken from the symbols of American traditional tattoo. Once again independent creativity provides evidence of liveliness and originality. Decorative items that are great for the most alternative people out there.

[www.etsy.com/sewZinski](http://www.etsy.com/sewZinski)



## MONETTI

### Handmade bags

Ms. Monetti is an independent craftswoman who creates handmade bags in pure tattoo style. Ms. Monetti is also super-technologic, so you will find her shop on etsy.com and the updates of her catalogue on twitter! Yes, this is the magic of virtual commerce.

[www.etsy.com/shop/monettl](http://www.etsy.com/shop/monettl)  
[www.twitter.com/monettl](http://www.twitter.com/monettl)





# NIKKI SIXX

StoreMags.com

## THE TATTOOS DIARIES



**MUSIC**

BY SIMONE SACCO

[www.sixxammusic.com](http://www.sixxammusic.com) - [www.myspace.com/sixxam](http://www.myspace.com/sixxam) - Facebook: SixxAM



IT IS USELESS TO SPEND EXTRA WORDS AND STERILE INTRODUCTIONS ON A LIVING LEGEND LIKE NIKKI SIXX AND ON EVERYTHING HIS SPOILED ROCKER BODY REPRESENTED FOR TATTOO ART. WE WILL LET THE LEADER OF MOTLEY CRÜE AND SIXX, A.M., TELL US ALL ABOUT IT. WE WANT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THE REALISTIC TATTOO DEDICATED TO MICK MARS, CALAMARI, THE COUNTER-CULTURE OF LOS ANGELES AND A CERTAIN TATTOO THAT WAS DONE THERE...



**N**IKKI, IT IS AN HONOR TO HAVE YOU ON THE PAGES OF TATTOO LIFE! MY FIRST

**QUESTION IS HOW DID YOU COME INTO CONTACT WITH TATTOO ART. I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR FIRST TIME EVER...**

Well I've been following the tattoo culture since I was a kid (he laughs)... I have always loved tattoos especially for its anti-mainstream idea. Tattoo art was a perfect counter-culture to free my rebel soul...And it still is!

**TELL ME ABOUT THE FIRST OF YOUR NUMEROUS TATTOOS: WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY?**

Everything was very simple: I walked into Sunset Strip Tattoo and asked Kevin Brady to tattoo a black rose. One minute I was walking down the sidewalk in Los Angeles and the next I was wearing my very first tattoo. Good old times...

**AROUND THE MID 80'S DURING THE SO-CALLED GOLDEN-AGE OF LOS ANGELES ROCK YOU WERE ALREADY COMPLETELY TATTOOED. AT THE TIME THOUGH TATTOO ART WAS STILL CONSIDERED "OBSCENE", "ILLEGAL" AND "DANGEROUS"... WHAT DO YOU FEEL TODAY NOW THAT THESE PREJUDICES ARE STUFF OF A CENTURY AGO?**

I've always loved being an "outsider" as for looks and educate people on the beauty of the various forms of art... But now those times are over and tattoo has become part of the mass culture. I like to think that in a certain way, myself and the other guys of Motley Crüe contributed to make this happen.

**I INTERVIEWED DOZENS AND DOZENS OF HARD ROCK, METAL, PUNK, HARDCORE MUSICIANS AND ALMOST ALL AGREED THAT THE IDEA OF GETTING A TATTOO CAME FROM A MOTLEY CRÜE VIDEO THEY SAW ON MTV... WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS ROLE OF "PIONEER"?**

I like the idea: we didn't invent tattoo art! We just made it more popular, of course, but the world would have gotten tattooed even without our lesson!

**YOU HAVE A REALISTIC TATTOO ON YOUR LEG DEDICATED TO YOUR BEST BUDDY MICK MARS: WHY MICK AND NOT TOMMY (LEE) OR VINCE (NEIL)?**

Because Mick was the only one of us to come to terms with his demons. He was the only one to have this courage and that tattoo is my way of putting my arm around his shoulder and saying "good job".

**ONE OF THE MOST RECURRING MYSTERIES LINKED TO YOUR PIECES ARE YOUR TATTOOS DEDICATED TO THE CALAMARI YOU HAVE ON YOUR CHEST: WHY CALAMARI, NIKKI? IS IT A TRIBUTE TO THE SEA WORLD?**

Nah, I just think I like how they look on my skin. It was a pure aesthetical choice. That's all.

**I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH MORE SPACE AVAILABLE ON YOUR BODY: JUST A FEW INCHES ON YOUR LEFT LEG AND YOUR BUTT... SO ARE YOU GOING TO STOP OR CONTINUE?**

You kidding? I'll be completely tattooed in the future! I don't want an inch of free skin on my body (he laughs)!

**LET'S TALK ABOUT 'THIS IS GONNA HURT', THE SECOND (GREAT) ALBUM BY SIXX:A.M. DOES THE TITLE REFER TO WHAT HAPPENS NORMALLY IN TATTOO SHOPS?**

Yes, I hate getting tattooed! And I will never get used to the pain even if I know it well, ha...But I know it is for a good cause!

**HOW COME YOU MADE SUCH A MELODIC YET AMAZING ALBUM? I EVEN CAPTURED A MILD INFLUENCE FROM MUSE...**

Well, I think that James (Michael, the vocalist, author's note), DJ Ashba and I merely did what every good artist

should do: pull out the best! Thanks for the compliments, we are glad you liked 'This Is Gonna Hurt'!

**WHEN WILL THE NEW ALBUM OF MOTLEY CRÜE COME OUT? I MEAN THE FOLLOW-UP OF 'SAINTS OF LOS ANGELES' OF 2008...**

Next year...



**Line-up**

Nikki Sixx - bass, b. vocals  
James Michael - voice, guitar, keyboards

DJ Ashba - guitar, b. vocals

**Album**

This Is Gonna Hurt

**Label**

Eleven Seven Music

**Photos**

Eleven Seven Music



**GREAT, THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. DID WE FORGET SOMETHING, NIKKI?**

Yes, I have to tell you about a terrible lie I told and I would like to do it here in this interview. Years ago I said I got my dick tattooed with the flames of a hot rod. Well it's not true! I have the words: "Welcome to Los Angeles, motherfucker!".





**TATTOO** life  
PRODUCTION

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WHO'S WHO

# CHRIS CONN

## ENGRAVING, ILLUSTRATIONS, LADIES AND ELEGANT VISIONS

BY MARGHERITA BALENI  
[www.sekretcity.com](http://www.sekretcity.com)

COVERS FOR ALBUMS AND BOOKS, PAINTINGS, ILLUSTRATIONS AND TATTOOS. CHRIS CONN IS ONE OF THOSE LUCKY ARTISTS WHO IS ABLE TO EXPRESS HIS ARTISTIC CREATIVITY THROUGH DIFFERENT MEDIA, WITH HIS UNIQUE LINES, VERY CLEAR, WITH SUBJECTS THAT BECOME EVER THINNER FOLLOWING THE GRACE AND PURENESS OF GRAPHICS, AND THAT TAKE ON THE IMAGERY AND SYMBOLOGY OF TATTOOS. AFTER BEING INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED AS A GENIUS OF TATTOO ART, HE WORKED IN THIS FIELD FROM 1990 TO 2006, HE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE MACHINE TO FOCUS ON ILLUSTRATION, THE ARTISTIC FORM THAT PERFECTLY "FITS" HIS ARTISTIC EXPRESSIVENESS. HE LIVES IN SAN FRANCISCO, AN AMAZING ACTIVE AND LIVELY CITY FOR AN ARTIST LIKE CHRIS THAT IS CONSTANTLY REINVENTING HIMSELF.

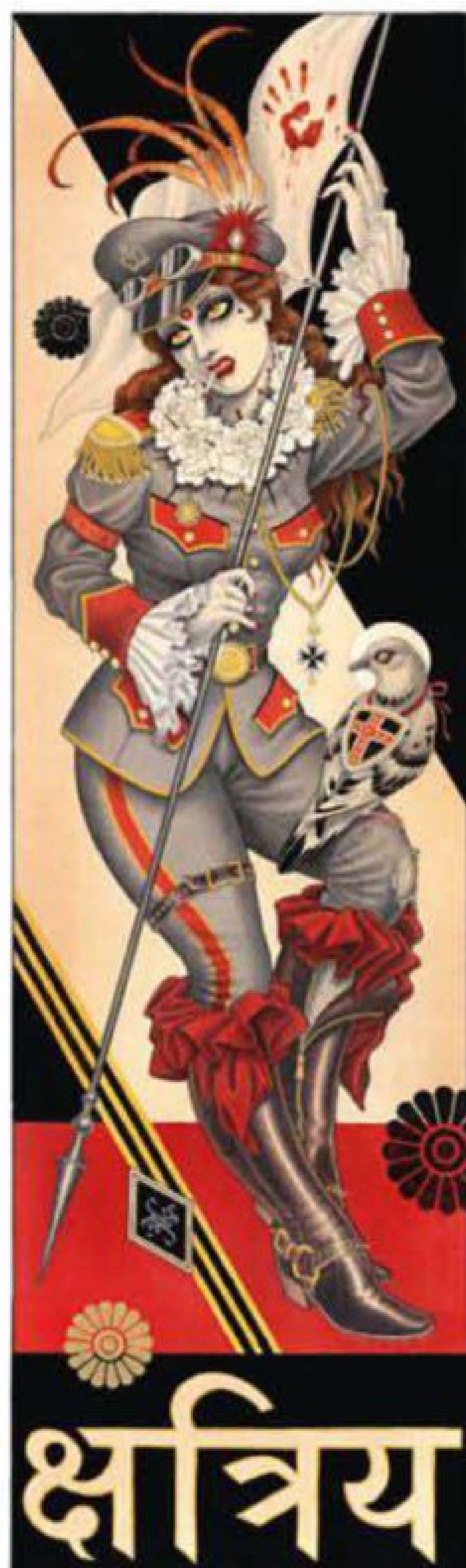
**C**HRIS, FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO OUR READERS.

TELL US ABOUT HOW YOUR ARTISTIC LIFE EVOLVED SO FAR.

Well, I started drawing further back than I can remember, though I never had any real art training. It was just an escape for me...my first and favorite drug. Since I didn't care much for the world around me, I created my own, piece by piece, through drawing. To be honest, I had never really aspired to have an art career, I was happy just







Kshatriya



La Penitente

of premature mid-life crisis, going through a lot of internal and external changes, and really starting to be frustrated with the whole tattooing business, and feeling like it just wasn't for me anymore. I had to make a change, so I moved on to Temple Tattoo in Oakland, largely so that I could work part time and go back to school, taking pre-med courses with an eye towards becoming a DMI. Two things soon became clear: that I was unable to effectively go to school full time and still support myself and my son, and

making art for myself, but it was just the only thing I had any real talent in, so it just sort of happened on its own. After high school, I took all kinds of jobs, believing that I would find a career somewhere, but none of it led anywhere I wanted to go. When the door to the world of tattooing was opened to me, I jumped at the chance, and spent the majority of my working life pursuing it. Since I quit in 2006, I have moved on to working on paper only, and in the last five years of doing that, I have begun to see more doors opening in all kinds of directions, so we'll see what comes next...

### WHAT ATTRACTED YOU MOST ABOUT TATTOOS? WHERE DID YOU WORK?

It's really difficult for me to say exactly what attracted me to it in the first place...I started getting tattooed in my teens, back in the 80's. I was immediately fascinated with it, and got more and more over time, but it was a few years before it

really occurred to me to become a tattooist, and I had no idea how to go about doing that. When I moved to San Francisco, things all just kind of came together on their own, and I ended up signing on as apprentice to Henry Goldfield, who had a shop on Broadway, just past all of the strip joints. I loved Henry's shop because it reminded me a bit of the crusty old waterfront places I had first been tattooed at, and he has a really graceful style of tattooing, which appealed to me. I was there about a year, and then moved about from shop to shop and city to city for quite a while before settling in at Tattoo City, where I stayed for five years. Working there was a real leap in my development, largely from getting to work with so many great tattooists, especially Ed, Higgs, and Colin Stevens (one of the true unsung heroes of tattooing, in my humble opinion). Towards the end of that time, I was having a sort



La Croix Rouge



## WHO'S WHO

96



Six Girls

that I wasn't temperamentally suited for a medical career at all, so I just dove back into tattooing headlong until I could come up with another escape plan, and ironically, that was when I started to make what I consider to be some of the biggest leaps in my development as a tattooist. After five years there I worked at another long succession of shops and secret apartments before finally resigning from the scab trade.

**WHICH WAS YOUR FAVORITE STYLE AND WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU TATTOO THE MOST? LADIES?**

# CHRIS CONN

When I first started tattooing, I was very influenced by Dan Higgs and Freddy Corbin's work. I worked down the street from them, and would spend hours hanging around there, getting tattooed and picking their brains. Tattoo City was really on fire at that time, really setting a new standard, and I was hungry to catch a bit of spark off of that. I realized that I wanted to develop a style that combined a bit of Dan's boldness with Freddy's grace, and over time I started naturally straying more in the latter direction, with an emphasis on finer lines and more detail. That kind of style naturally lends itself to rendering the female form, and after I put a few key pin-up pieces in my book, that just started becoming my specialty.

**AT THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL LONDON TATTOO CONVENTION YOU WILL HOLD A SEMINAR DEDICATED TO TATTOOISTS DEDICATED TO DRAWING AND THE CREATION OF FEMALE FACES. YOUR LADIES ARE INDEED VERY PARTICULAR AND ABSOLUTELY LINKED TO THE CLASSICAL REPRESENTATION OF TATTOO. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THIS. WHAT WILL THE SEMINAR FOCUS ON?**

Over the sixteen years that I've spent in the business, I developed a very simple system for designing tattoos of the female form, and this is the majority of what I cover in the seminar. Drawing women properly is very difficult in any circumstances, and in the noisy, busy tattoo shop, we don't always have the time we'd like. Even when

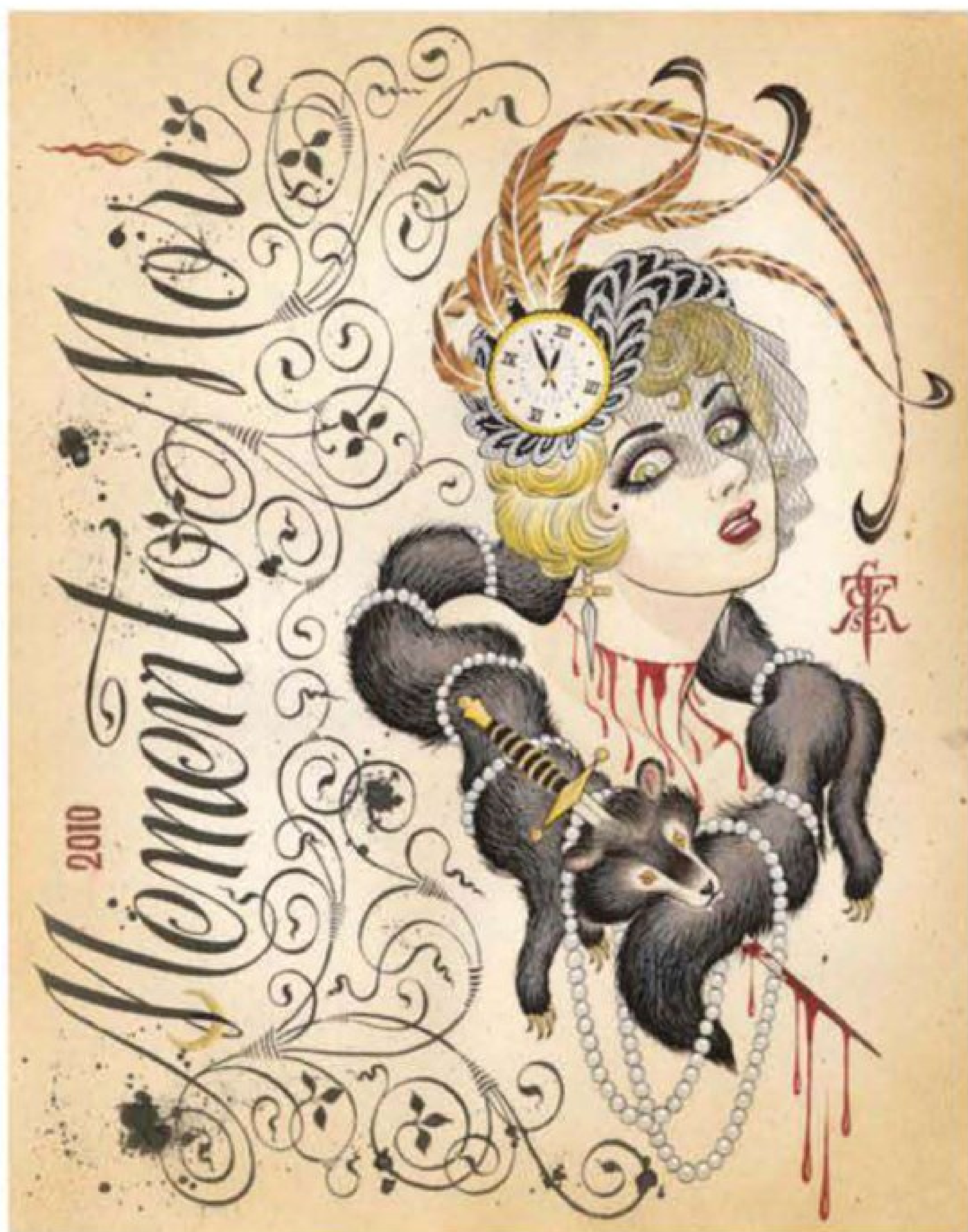
we do, designing a pin-up can be a grueling and delicate process, with an aftermath of large amounts of ripped-up paper. My hope is that this system will allow anyone to create lively, dramatic and dynamic pin-up tattoo designs with much more efficiency and much less frustration, and it is designed to be modifiable to your own personal style. I also discuss lots of details about rendering of hair, eyes, breasts, etc., a bit of the history of how I developed my system and style, how to find and use reference properly, how placement and scale affect design, technical information on needles and inks, and, most importantly, how to give your pin-ups their own distinct style and that little extra spark of life that separates a great pin-up from just an accurately rendered mannikin. I also answer as many individual questions as the attendees care to ask. I was a bit daunted the first time I did one of these seminars, and it's really quite exhausting, but the multitude of kind emails I've had from young tattooists who tell me how much the seminar helped them have made it all very worthwhile.

**RIGHT NOW YOU MOSTLY WORK ON PAPER, WHY? WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO "CHANGE" AND FOCUS ON ILLUSTRATION? WHAT ARE THE LIMITS OF TATTOOING IN YOUR OPINION?**

One of the many reasons I left tattooing to paint full time was because I wanted to start playing with techniques that would be impossible in tattooing. Another is that I wanted to be able to do whatever I want, without the need of a live customer to work on, with all of their opinions and changes. It's been really liberating to sit down with a big piece of blank paper and just do whatever I like, without worrying about having to please a customer. Paper doesn't twitch or complain, and it sure doesn't talk back!

**DID YOU EVER HOLD ANY EXHIBITIONS? WHICH WAS THE MOST SPECIAL TO YOU?**





Memento Mori



Carmelia

I have had pieces in several group shows, on both coasts, but I am currently preparing for my very first solo show at the Merry Karnowski Gallery this November. I have to generate a whole year's worth of fresh, never-before-seen work for this...quite a daunting prospect, but I've been working away at it very hard for a while now, and have finished several pieces that I'm very excited about. That's one of the reasons I started doing these seminars: how else can I support myself for a year without selling any of the paintings 'til November?

**WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING IN DRAWING LADIES? DOES THE MEDIUM YOU ARE WORKING ON CANVAS, PAPER OR SKIN AFFECT THE FINAL RESULT OF THE DESIGN?**

Hell, everything about it is difficult! The medium definitely makes a difference. Though my paintings are still definitely very similar in style to my tattoo work, there are limitations in working on skin that I don't face with working on paper, for instance having to take the shifting, irregular surface into account.

**THE PAINTING MEMENTO MORI. A TITLE THAT IS VERY SPECIAL FOR TATTOO ICONOGRAPHY AND THAT YOU DEVELOPED WITH A PARTICULAR SYMBOLOGY. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.**

Well, the Memento Mori theme, though popular throughout the history of tattooing, goes much further back. It's a pretty basic idea that I think most of us would do well to remember on a daily basis... nothing lasts forever...especially not you and I.





## WHO'S WHO

**WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING FOR YOU: FINDING THE IDEA OR CREATING IT? HOW IS YOUR ART WORK CREATED?**

I usually spend most of my time and effort developing the concept and design, sometimes even longer than I spend painting it, though every once in a while I get lucky and one pops up ready to go in just a couple hours of sketching. I usually do most of my design work in the evening, because that's when my mind is most receptive to inspiration, and the actual rendering I do primarily in the daytime, for lighting reasons.

**YOUR WORK IS FILLED WITH LOTS OF DIFFERENT ELEMENTS THAT PROBABLY DERIVE FROM A VERY RICH CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC BACKGROUND OF A CURIOUS AND OPEN-MINDED PERSON. HOW DID YOU BUILD IT AND WHICH IDEAS AND INFLUENCES DO YOU FIND, EVEN UNCONSCIOUSLY, IN YOUR WORK?**

Well, yes, I've always been very curious, and a voracious reader. I try to expose myself to a wide variety of art, mostly older stuff. It would take hours to list all of my influences, but as far as art, many of my influences are pretty clear: the Symbolists (Gustave Moreau, Odilon Redon, Remedios Varo, etc.), the Decadents (Felicien Rops, Franz von Bayros, Alfred Kubin, etc.), European propaganda from WWII, Bourgeois, mystical symbolism from many (primarily western and Japanese) traditions, archaic natural history illustration, coins and stamps, military costumery, all of the great Japanese printmakers (Hiroshige, Kuniyoshi, Hokusai, etc.) the art of the ancient Romans and Pompeiians, and of course, Maruo Suehiro. Just to name a few...

What I am reading at the time also always has a strong effect on my work, as does music, which I am constantly collecting. Music may be one of the strongest influences on my work, actually, as the proper soundtrack definitely helps me set the right mood for working on the piece, and obscuring distractions.



'M96'

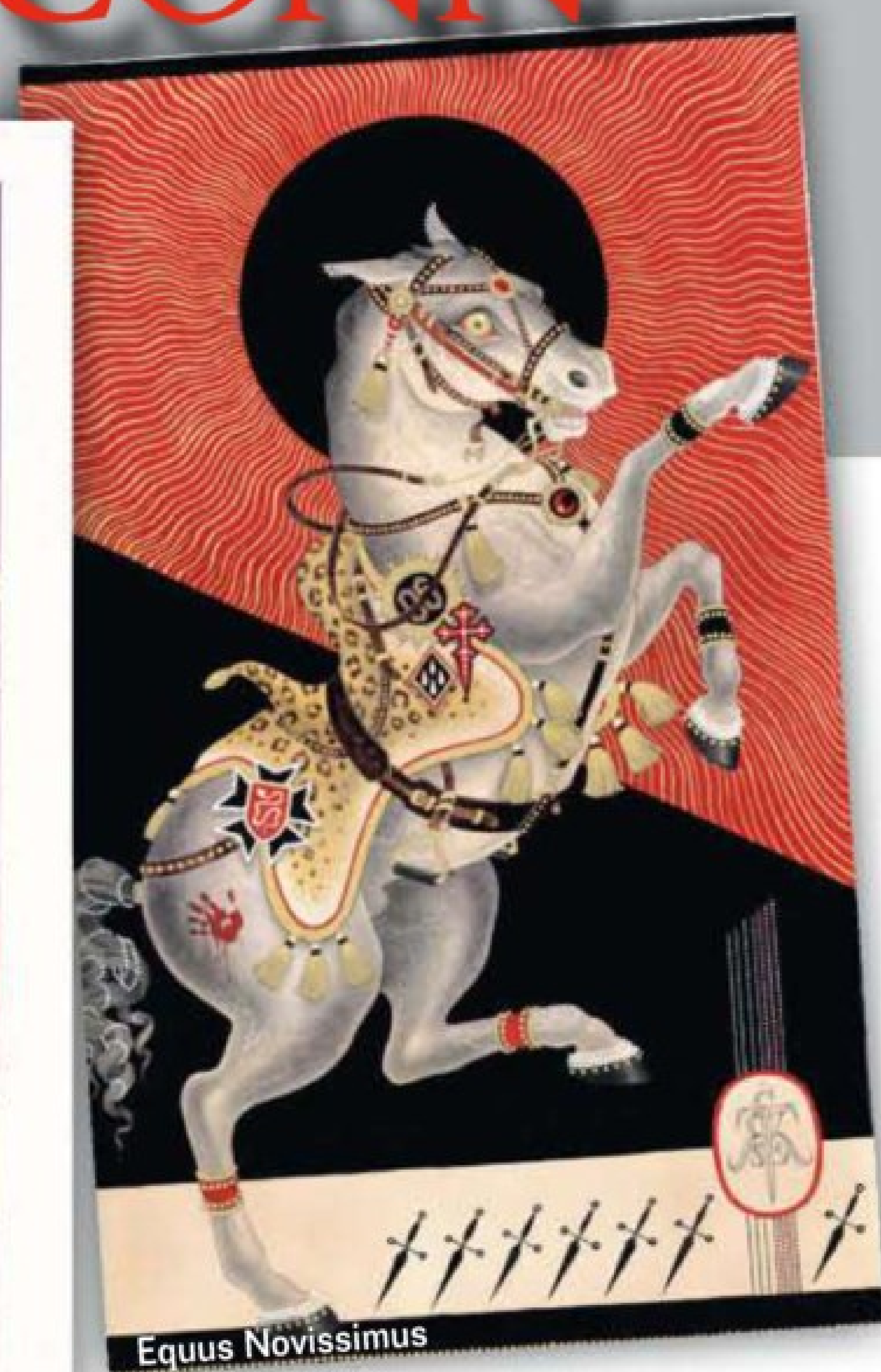
I often make a special playlist for each painting, and listen to it continuously while I work, especially in the developmental stages.

**NOT HAVING A PROPER ARTISTIC EDUCATION WAS A PROBLEM FOR YOU IN SOME WAY OR IT NEVER REALLY MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE?**

I have only two regrets about not getting a formal art education:

- 1) that my knowledge of art history is still spottier than I'd like, as I always just want to jump straight to the stuff that really plucks my strings
- 2) I was not exposed to a very full range of media, so I am now, in my forties, trying to catch up. Right now I am learning a bit from experimenting with some basic hand printmaking techniques, something I will definitely be pursuing more over the coming

# CHRIS CONN



years. I am doing some drypoints and engraving right now, and hope to learn some lithography techniques, and book arts skills as well. There will be more schooling in my near future, for sure...

**WHAT PROJECT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?**

Well, other than what I told you, I kinda have to keep it a bit secret until the big show in November, but I can say that some of the current pieces have been involving whales, giraffes, radio towers, and of course a few ladies and cats... once the show is up I'll post it all, and have a slew of new prints available...

One plan I do have for the next year is to get the hell out of San Francisco. I've been here for far too long, and need a big change...I'm hoping to relocate to Europe, if I can manage to get a long-term visa!



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CONVENTION

# THE 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION

Cory Norris, Classic Tattoo, Grass Valley, USA

## TATTOO FAMILY REUNION IN SPARKS

TEXT BY JAY BROWN  
PHOTOS BY RICHARD TODD



Brandon Lewis, Heavy Duty Tattoo, Ogden, USA



THERE ARE THREE REALLY OLD TATTOO CONVENTIONS IN THE U.S. AS I KNOW IT RICHMOND, VA WHICH IS 19 THIS YEAR, TATTOOS AND BLUES WHICH JUST TURNED 20, AND THE GRANDDADDY OF ALL CONVENTIONS NATIONAL, DARE I SAY THE OLDEST TATTOO CONVENTION IN THE WORLD, WITH ITS FIRST ONE IN 1979.

**A**nd it just got older, this year celebrating 32 years in Sparks, Nevada at Nugget Hotel and Casino, just off of I-80 at the end of the Reno Strip. A very nice hotel a great pool and hot tub, with a spa and workout area as well. The fun part about National is it's not in the same place in the country every year, so each convention is a new experience, which is nice.

The convention started out with a favorite for both tattoo artists and enthusiasts with 2 events. A golf tournament at Washoe Golf course which raised \$1800.00 for the Veterans House of Reno. Also a bike run through the mountains on Tuesday put together by Apache Jil and her crew.

Wednesday the events started with another NTA convention tradition,



## CONVENTION



the art demonstrations started with Jeff Gogue, Corry Norris, and Manuel Valenzuela doing oil on canvas. These paintings were auctioned on Friday, with the proceeds going to the Col. Todd Hardship Fund. Rich Ives also did an airbrushing seminar and produced a beautiful piece which was auctioned as well with the proceeds going to the Uncle Bud Scholarship Fund. Thursday started off with the APT Bloodbourne Pathogen Class taught by Sunshine McCurry, filling in for Mike Martin who was in a bad motorcycle accident and unfortunately couldn't attend. Registration and Contest Entries as well as Auction and Raffle Donations

went on Thursday morning as well as Friday. Another addition to Thursdays activities were Seminars by Mary Jane Haake, and Vyvyn Lazonga. A beautiful thing happened at the meetings that evening, and the membership was called on to donate a few dollars to help out Mike Martin and his wife after his accident, just a few bucks whatever could be afforded, within minutes there was over \$1500 raised, by the end of the show that number was well over \$2400. Thursday night closed out with the Welcome Party which I feel should be called the "Welcome Feast". During it Art Fusion was done by Tristan Thomas Fuller, Nick The

Tailor, Judy Parker, Liz Gruesome, & Jesse Neese. In color and in black & gray it was Nikki Pettis, Chris Parry, Graham Bradford, Addy VanMatre & Bill Funk and the pieces were auctioned Friday at the banquet to benefit the hardship and scholarship funds. Friday is contest day at Nationals, and as usual awards were given for Judge's Choice, this year's judges were Aaron Bell, Tony Edwards, Paul Jeffries, Rob Massimiano, Judy Parker, Greg Piper, & Cap Szumski, and People's Choice, which allows those registered for the convention to vote on a plethora of categories. The awards ceremony was after the banquet as well as the auctions



St MarQ, Truth & Triumph Tattoo, USA





Boris, Boris Tattoo, Hungary



Danny Warner, Classic Tattoo, Grass Valley, USA

and raffles to raise money for the Uncle Bud Scholarship Fund and the Col. Todd Hardship Fund with over \$11,200 to the hardship fund and over \$5000 for the scholarship fund. This year was a big one for Bob Shaw Golden Age Awards, an award given to tattooers with 40 years in the business. This year there were 14 awarded and of those 7 were present. This year's recipients who weren't present were Gary Dittman, Patsy Farrow, Gianmaurizio Fercioni, Louie Lombi, Charla Mason, Mike McClement, and Michael Trobaugh. Those who were present were Dana Brunson, Dennis Dwyer, Kate Hellenbrand, Rick Cherry, Rich "Mr. Domo" Perdomo, Bud Pierson and Don William. The awards ceremony is also where several special awards are given each year. This year the Peter Ta-2 award was given to two people, Christine Lewis and Paul Vagnini. The Terry Wrigley award was given to Bill Hannong. The Uncle Bud Congeniality award was given to Heidi Unger. The award for best tattoo enthusiast, the



Cory Norris, Classic Tattoo, Grass Valley, USA



James Kern, No Hope No Fear, Portland, USA



## CONVENTION

Back Rich Ives, Pikes Peak Tattoos, USA



Jerret Saeth, Monarch Tattoo, Kennewick, USA



Elizabeth Weinzirl award was given to Joeri D'Hondt from Belgium. Another example of how NTA is a family, Shannon "Tat" Toohey didn't have a banner for her booth so many great artists jumped in to help make one for her, Jack Rudy, Brian Everett, Judy Parker, Rich Ives, Shahn Anderson and Rob Massimiano jumped to the call and got one done for her. More than just a tattoo convention, now that's family! After the banquet and awards ended, everyone headed downstairs for drinks and gambling in the casino. This year's convention featured tattooing by some of tattooing's finest. Booth holders this year were Jack Rudy, Brian Everett, Goodtime Charlie Cartwright, Vyvyn Lazonga, Shahn Anderson, Lucas Hendrix, Rusty Savage and Paul Massaro, The Rosini Tattoo Family, A Fine Art Tattoo, Dennis Dwyer, Bald Bill, Jeff Gogue, Brandon Lewis, Mr. G & Madame Chinchilla, Jeff & Jamie Milliron, Dave & Peggy Sucher with Tattoo Hawaii, Telisa Swan and Jen Carmean, Michael Cully,

Lyle Tuttle was in attendance of course, with a few other old timers like Snake Yates, Bud Pearson, Dana Brunson and Bill Salmon. Other booth holders were Shanghai Kate Hellenbrand, Bill and Anna Funk, Winona Martin even made an appearance, Aaron Bell, Shanon "tat" Toohey, Apache Jill, Jojo Ackerman, Judy Parker, Tom Meyer, Bald Bill Henshaw, Corry Norris, Keely Tackett, Rob Massimiano, Tony Edwards, Bill Dawson, Jesse Martynuik, Mark Phillips, Ken Cameron, Cap Szumski, Byron Wallace, Aunt Brinda, Mr. Scary, Gary Wells, and Jesse Nesse to name a few of the great artists working this year, with 66 booths in all. Another added bonus was live entertainment by the Hellbusters on Sat. and the Darlins on Sun. Steve Starr also did a set each day. Tattoo of the day was judged at 8pm with Moria Feighery-Ross Tattooed by Vyvyn Lazonga as the winner and the floor closed by 10. Saturday's seminars were done by Shahn Anderson, Mr. G & Madame Chinchilla, Peggy Sucher, Dick

Goldman, Bill Hannong, Amy Kearney, and Jeff Kearny. A fill-in seminar was done by Pat Sinatra to cover Mike Martin's class. Sunday started out with the convention floor opening by 10am, and seminars by 10:30am. Sundays Seminars were taught by Miss Bethra, Jack Rudy and Brian Everett continuing their yearly tradition, Mrs. Ann & Bill Funk, Heide Unger, and Mr. G. Tattoo of the day was judged at 6:30pm and won by Liz Gruesome tattooed by Graham Bradford, after that the floor slowed down and people packed up in anticipation for the final event of this year's NTA Convention, the Roast. This has become a favorite of many NTA Convention goers, one last hoorah and laugh before we go our separate ways till the next year's convention. This is always the sad part of the show, but the good news is the Oldest Tattoo Convention in the World will be back again next year with another NTA Family Reunion, look out Cincinnati, here we come, hope to see you there !!





Jen Carmean, Monarch Tattoo, New Foundland, USA



Hailin Fu, Léhuo, Shan Dong, China



Jamie Schene, Bliss Tattoo, Apple Valley, USA



St Marq, Truth & Triumph Tattoo, W. Lafayette, USA



Zhen Guo



**COVER GIRL**

TEXT BY SIMONE SACCO - PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN SAINT



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# KELLY Eden

## TATTOOED THIS WAY

SHE LOVES LADY GAGA'S INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL ISSUES AND THE REALISTIC TATTOOS MADE BY NIKKO HURTADO. SHE HAS A PASSION FOR DOLLS, SHE IS A COLLEGE STUDENT AND LATELY SHE ALSO APPEARED IN THE VIDEO OF ESCAPE THE FATE. WHAT'S UP NEXT FOR KELLY EDEN? THE WORLD OF 'FINAL FANTASY'...

**H**I, KELLY: TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR WORK, YOUR CAREER. AND YOUR AMBITIONS...

Well, I am a model, a tattoo artist (at the moment I am not working), a college student (I am attending the Fine Arts Academy at RMCAD and I work/study at the Department of technology), a makeup artist and the ideal girlfriend (she laughs)! Ah, as model for Splat Hair, I've got dozens of teenagers following me around

so I have a big responsibility on my shoulders. I support initiatives that promote open-mindedness, effective communication and creativity.

**WHEN DID YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH TATTOO ART FOR THE FIRST TIME?**

To tell you the truth, at first I really didn't like tattoos that much but then I discovered Nikko Hurtado's work. I stepped into this world when I was young, when I started working in a tattoo shop near my college. Most of the artists nagged me to get a tattoo, but I always refused. I just couldn't see

myself wearing one of their pieces on my skin...for the rest of my life!

**AND THEN...**

I noticed Nikko's portraits on a magazine. I was impressed and finally I was able to see tattoos as an art and not just a fashion trend. Four months later I got tattooed by Nikko at the Las Vegas convention and at the moment he is the only artist who has tattooed my body.

**YOUR LADY GAGA TATTOO IS VERY COOL AND CONTEMPORARY...**

I love what she represents more





than her music. Lady Gaga works a lot for the MAC Aids Fund and she is even a spokesperson for Viva Glam; she is very interested in the ideas of Girl Power and the pro-gay rights. She is the icon of extravaganza. She constantly challenges the world, forcing us to deal with our standards of "normality". And she encourages us to follow the path of tolerance with everybody...

**JENNIFER CONNELLY, DAVID BOWIE, MARILYN MONROE, LADY GAGA... WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TATTOO ON YOUR SKIN?**

I grew up with the videogame of Final Fantasy. I am completely in love with the story and its irresistible characters. Since that game was so important in my childhood, I decided to get my favorite character tattooed on my arm: Sephiroth.

**LET'S TALK ABOUT THE TATTOO DEDICATED TO BARBIE: IS IT**





## COVER GIRL



### A CUTE TRIBUTE TO YOUR CHILDHOOD?

Yes, Barbie represents different things to me: healthy development during childhood, the positive change of feminism, the attitude "I can do what I decide to, because everything is possible" and the idea of huge self-confidence. Barbie makes all girls feel at ease with themselves!

### WHAT ARE KELLY EDEN'S FUTURE PROJECTS?

I have recently been to Hollywood and I appeared as a co-star in the video of Escape The Fate: amazing! I just can't wait to appear in other music videos... And also Tim Miller is thinking about creating a "Kelly Eden" doll: pretty cool huh? My biggest goal now is my graduation. I have been studying for the past four years...





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**LONDON 2011**

BY MARGHERITA B.

# THE LONDON

## VII EDITION

**T**attoo art, social sub-cultures, passion and tradition, as well as fashion trends and look are at the origin of the crossing point represented by the Tobacco Dock, the beautiful Covent

Garden of East London, where once again the world of international tattoo will meet for a very special three-day event where tattoo will be the melting pot of different arts and cultures, for an amazing event that has a very rich program with shows scheduled back to back for the entire convention.

The virtual tour starts from room 13 for this space along the river created at the beginning of the 800 (during the great commercial expansion of London when the spaces along the Thames were highly requested) and renovated during the 80's from the former owners. The event everybody is waiting for will be held inside these halls with large glass windows: the show of the big masters of tattoo (250!!) and their amazing creations on skin in all

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# LONDON TATTOO CONVENTION

1 - SEPTEMBER, 23<sup>RD</sup>/24<sup>TH</sup>/25<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

[WWW.THELONDONTATTOOCONVENTION.COM](http://WWW.THELONDONTATTOOCONVENTION.COM)

the styles currently present in tattoo art. Stepping into the various rooms here at Tobacco Dock means understanding the direction tattoo is moving towards, following it in its creative developments and meeting the finest artists of each and every style from traditional to horror, to tribal, to Japanese, between traditional method (don't miss the masters of Tebori art and hand needle) and tattoo machines. On the ground floor the shops occupied by the various merchandising vendors, clothing and objects linked with tattoo, will present the new collections and items, making the London convention the official big opening of the new season of European conventions. Located between Henry's bar, the square and the shops this year's art exhibitions include the **Wooden Block Portraits**

by **Alex Binnie** (wonderful portraits of tattooed people some by famous tattoo artists etched on wood), the sheets and sketches of 70 artists who gave their personal interpretation of hand tattoos in the exhibition **Tattoo Hands** by **Luca Mamone**; the paintings of **The Sante Peccatrici**, which represent the interpretation on canvas of the images of the Saints seen from a female point of view; **Edgard Hoill's Latino Art Collection** and the works of Tattoo Art For Japan, organized by Jim Diamond whose works (all about tattoos and done by tattoo artists) will be auctioned on Sunday night. All proceeds will be given to earthquake-stricken Japan. Something interesting for tattoo artists will be the seminar of the famous artist and former tattooist from San Francisco **Chris Conn** on drawing and female

faces in particular. All this will be happening while the main stage will be rocking with great shows and performances for all three days of the convention. Don't miss **Elegy Ellem** and the hot burlesque show and the tattoo **contests** on Saturday and Sunday which will award prizes to great artists for the various categories creating a show of wonderful works of art on skin. A micro universe all there to discover and explore for a three-day event that will pass in a heartbeat between the sounds of the machines and the smell of ink. To see the list of artists who will take part in this year's convention, times and events, hotels and much more just visit the site: [www.thelondontattooconvention.com](http://www.thelondontattooconvention.com)



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BOOK

BY MARGHERITA BALENI

# SPIDER MURPHY'S TATTOO FLASH

SINCE 1996  
WORLD CLASS  
A SECRET LANGUAGE  
FOR YESTERDAY AND TODAY

**TATTOO** life  
PRODUCTION

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# SPIDER MURPHY'S TATTOO FLASH

THE FLASH SHEETS COLLECTED IN THE BOOK PUBLISHED BY TATTOO LIFE PRODUCTION SPIDER MURPHY'S TATTOO FLASH COULD BE PROJECTED TO THE BEAT OF A PHONOGRAPH ON THE WALLS OF AN IMAGINARY TATTOO SHOP. THE BOOK COLLECTED 110 SHEETS SIGNED BY 6 GREAT TATTOO ARTISTS WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING AT THE SPIDER MURPHY'S TATTOO

SHOP FOR YEARS. THIS IS THE FAMOUS STUDIO BASED IN CALIFORNIA CREATED BY THEO MINDELL IN 1996 AND RENOWN WORLDWIDE FOR ITS CLASSICAL AND TIMELESS TATTOOS.

**T**heo Mindell, Matt Howse, Stuart Cripwell, Paul Anthony Dobleman, Bryan Randolph & Heather Bailey are the artists who signed these amazing sheets filled with traditional icons of various shapes and sizes, with the same black outline and the same antique images, or better aged images, which made the history of Western tattoo. A tribute





## THE GREAT BOOKS ON THE ART OF TATTOOING



to the classical drawing sheets which decorated the walls of the first tattoo shops, is what Theo Mindell wrote in the introduction to the book, summarizing in just one line the essence of the entire book. A reinterpretation of the years in which tattoos had another taste, when tattoos were chosen by simply looking at the walls. There were no perfect photos, or internet or magazines. It was a secret language made of symbols and recurrent images, and the sheets of flash were the first thing customers looked at when they entered tattoo shops. 'What do you want to say to the world?' inspiration came from those sheets, those images that just like dreams could stir very personal interpretations. Flash was the only thing able to stimulate creativity. Sheets on yellowish paper with many female faces, feathers and flowers, or intertwined with dragons that made them look like tarot cards. They are also the 'dreams for the dreamers' that a tattoo shop was able to give its customers with those sheets that smelled like mold filled with ladies, vessels, exotic and real dreams of the 20's and 30's of post-war America. A time when people wanted to escape, with sailors returning from faraway seas and sea towns mobbed with young guys searching for a way to free their dreams and memories, by stepping into

an old barber's shop, a silent tattoo shop hidden from indiscreet eyes. It's the time of white telephones and elegant ladies with their hair all pulled up. The time of traditional American tattoos re-interpreted by Paul Anthony Daney. They are the icons of Stewart Creepwell's 'pure old school' traditional, flat drawings, absolutely bi-dimensional; the bold outline of butterflies, flowers, American Indians, snakes and skulls combined with lettering. It is the imaginary of witch hunts and Medieval stories by Heather Bailey and all the tattoo iconography generated by Theo Mindell in his personal designs. Icons for unique tattoos, that in the 90's forced his style into American traditional.

*Throughout my 17 years of tattooing, tattoo flash has always been my favorite part of my craft. My sheets of watercolor paper have never told me what color to use... Or that they wanted the design going on them to be smaller... Or that they were cheating on their wife of twenty years with her sister. They just quietly waited to have something I think is special and beautiful put on them. They belong to me and will not die... images borrowed, stolen, and invented. No commercials, no hang tags, no drama. I hope you enjoy them. I have.*

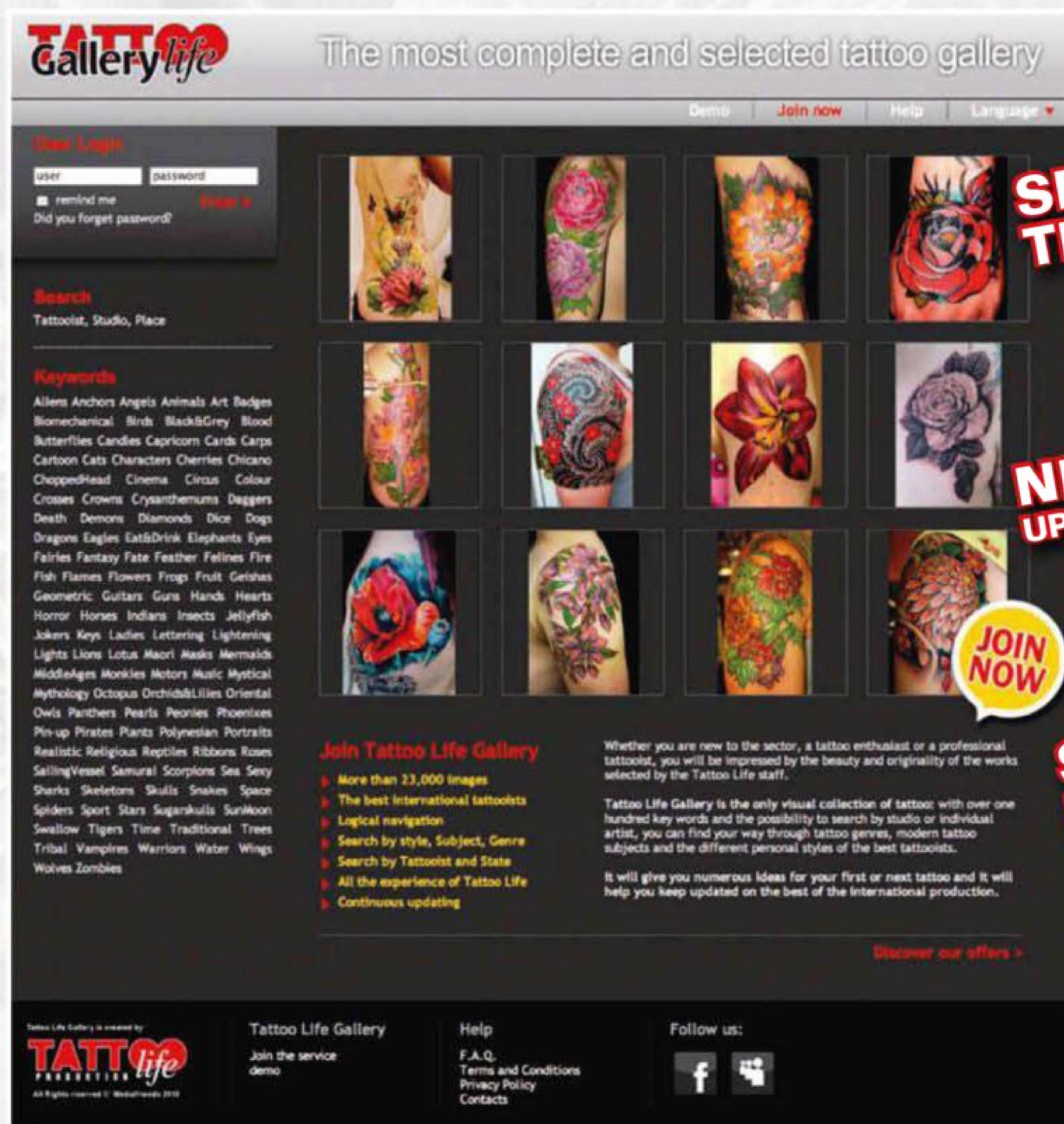
THEO D. MINDELL

[www.tattoolife.com/books](http://www.tattoolife.com/books)





# ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL TATTOO ARTIST? ARE YOU A TATTOO ENTHUSIAST?



## TATTOO LIFE GALLERY

### THE BEST TATTOOS JUST A CLICK AWAY! THE PHOTO ARCHIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TATTOO MAGAZINE TATTOO LIFE NOW ONLINE

SUBSCRIBE AND CHECK OUT THE ARCHIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TATTOO LIFE MAGAZINE. YOU WILL FIND THOUSANDS OF SELECTED PHOTOS ONLINE WITH THE BEST WORKS ON SKIN. OUR ARCHIVE IS EASY TO SEARCH USING KEY WORDS THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR QUICKLY. SURF THROUGH THE SUBJECTS AND THE STYLES OF MODERN TATTOO, STAY UPDATED ON THE NEWEST PRODUCTION WITH JUST ONE CLICK OR LOOK FOR SOMETHING INSPIRING. A USEFUL TOOL FOR EVERY TATTOO ENTHUSIAST BUT DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR TATTOO STUDIOS THAT WILL HAVE THOUSANDS OF IDEAS TO SHOW THEIR CUSTOMERS. TRY IT OUT IMMEDIATELY!

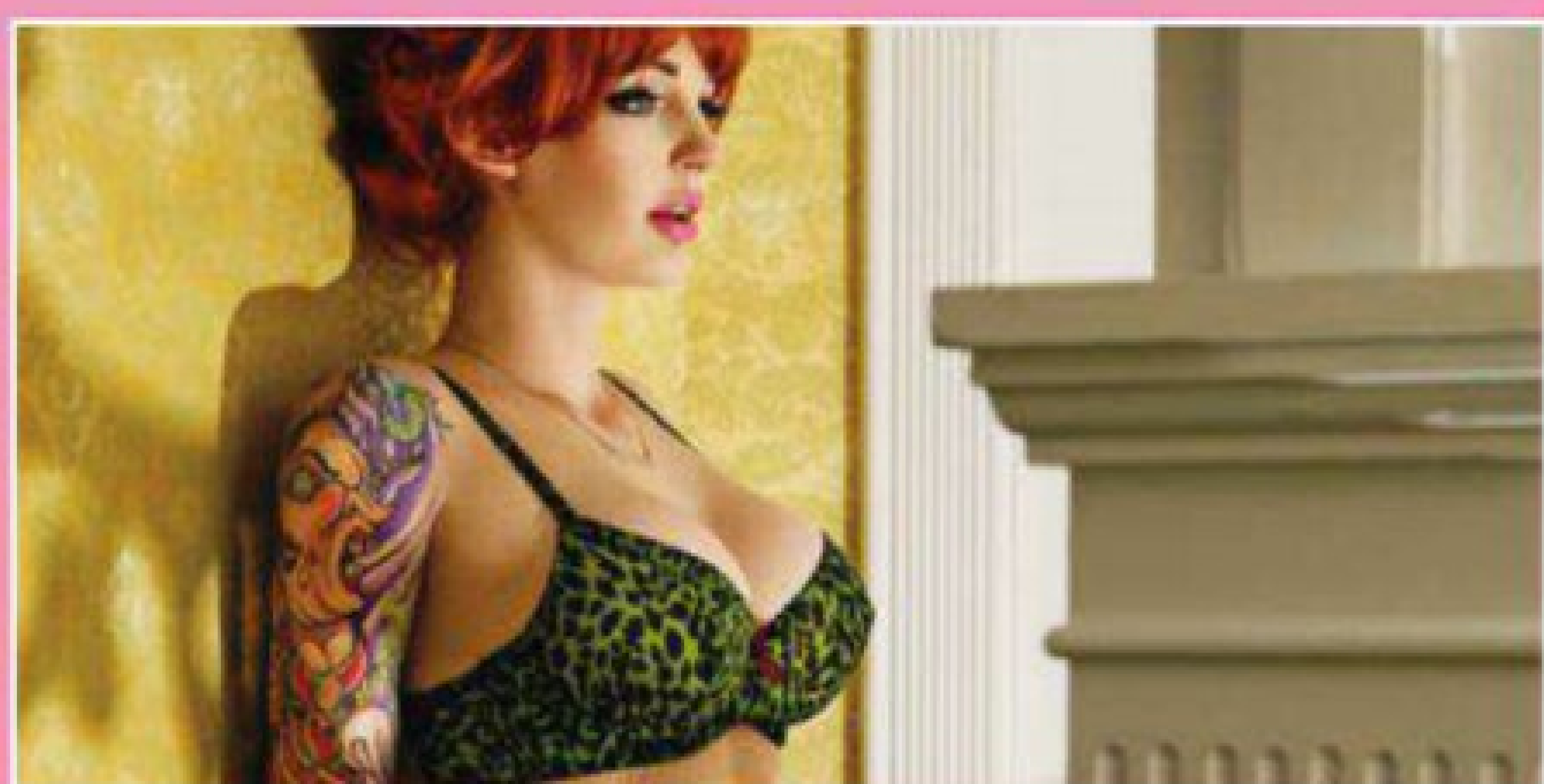


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Calendar ENERGY

**CALENDAR**  
**2012**

*Vanessa Lake*

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# Vanessa Lake

## Waiting for a very sexy 2012

[www.ispyvanessalake.com](http://www.ispyvanessalake.com)

TEXT BY SIMONE SACCO  
PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN SAINT

SHE WAS THE MUCH-APPRECIATED COVER GIRL OF A PAST ISSUE OF TATTOO LIFE BUT WHEN IT WAS TIME TO MAKE A HOT CALENDAR, ELEGANT AND SEXY AT THE SAME TIME WE JUST HAD TO CHOOSE HER (AGAIN!): VANESSA LAKE. HERE IS WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS ADVENTURE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA...

### CALENDAR GIRL



**H**ELLO VANESSA, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING OUR "CALENDAR-GIRL" FOR 2012?

Well, let's say it is absolutely wonderful. I feel so proud and honored to be here again on the pages of Tattoo Life. You've all been so great to me, I am so grateful!

HOW DID YOU MANAGE THE PHOTO SHOOT? WERE YOU JUST

THE MODEL OR WERE YOU ALSO ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE WITH YOUR OWN IDEAS?

Well, Christian Saint, the photographer and I started to look at the details (location, wardrobe, costumes, etc.) months before getting to the set. We both exchanged ideas and brainstormed a bit. But I was just the model and in the end the shooting lasted about 14 hours.

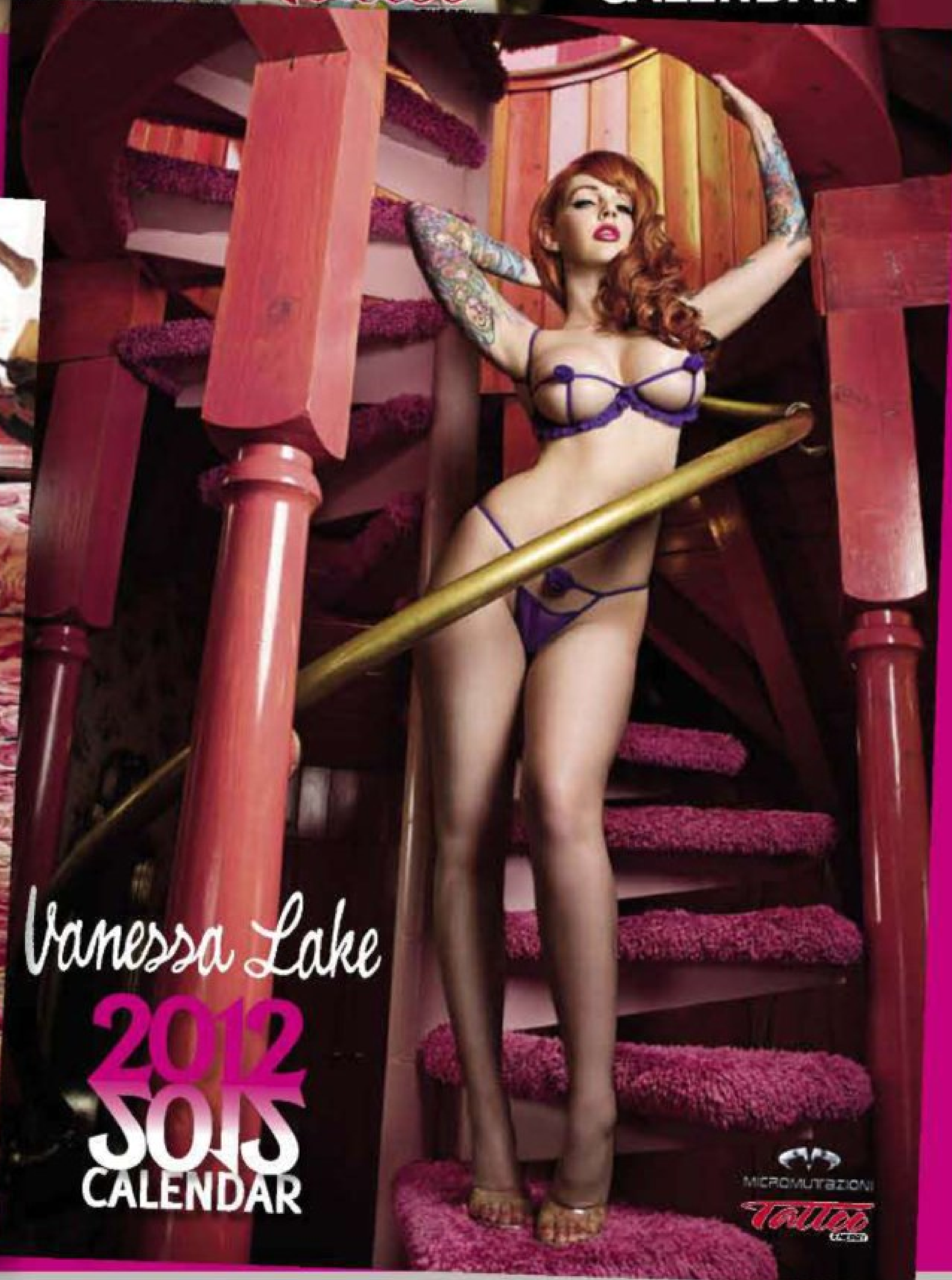
IS THERE A MONTH YOU PREFER MORE THAN OTHERS?

I still didn't see the preview, but I think May. Because it's my birthday month!

IN YOUR OPINION, HOW MUCH EROTISM IS THERE IN THE CALENDAR?

I hope there is just the right quantity. I like to think I can keep the right dose of sex appeal without ever being too 'vulgar'... If people want to say it is too erotic or too sexy, well I have no problems with it. People have said worse things about me!





**WHAT ABOUT THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY? IT'S A... BLOOD BATH?**  
Ha, ha! I had these bath "bombs" you throw in the tub and they melt into a fountain of fizzy bubbles: basically they had to color the water deep red! But the final result was this tone of red. Yes it really does look like I am in a bath of blood. Terrible! (she laughs)

**MY FAVORITE MONTH IS OCTOBER, THE PHOTO IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR. I THINK IT'S**

**VERY HOT...**

Wow, yes I agree: it really is hot! You know, mirrors, lingerie and boots are always a great combination...

**TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR TATTOOS: DID YOU GET ANY NEW ONES FROM THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER? I MEAN SINCE LAST SUMMER...**

No, I didn't get any new ones. I wanted to take a break to enjoy the ones I already have...before getting any new ones!

**LAST QUESTION: DID WE FORGET ANYTHING DURING THIS PLEASANT CHAT, VANESSA?**

Ehm, I just want to say that everybody should get a copy of this calendar! 2012 will be a very sexy year and you can also find me on ISpyVanessaLake.com...





Matzon, Zombie Tattoo, Finland

Noi Siamese, 1969 Tattoo, Norway





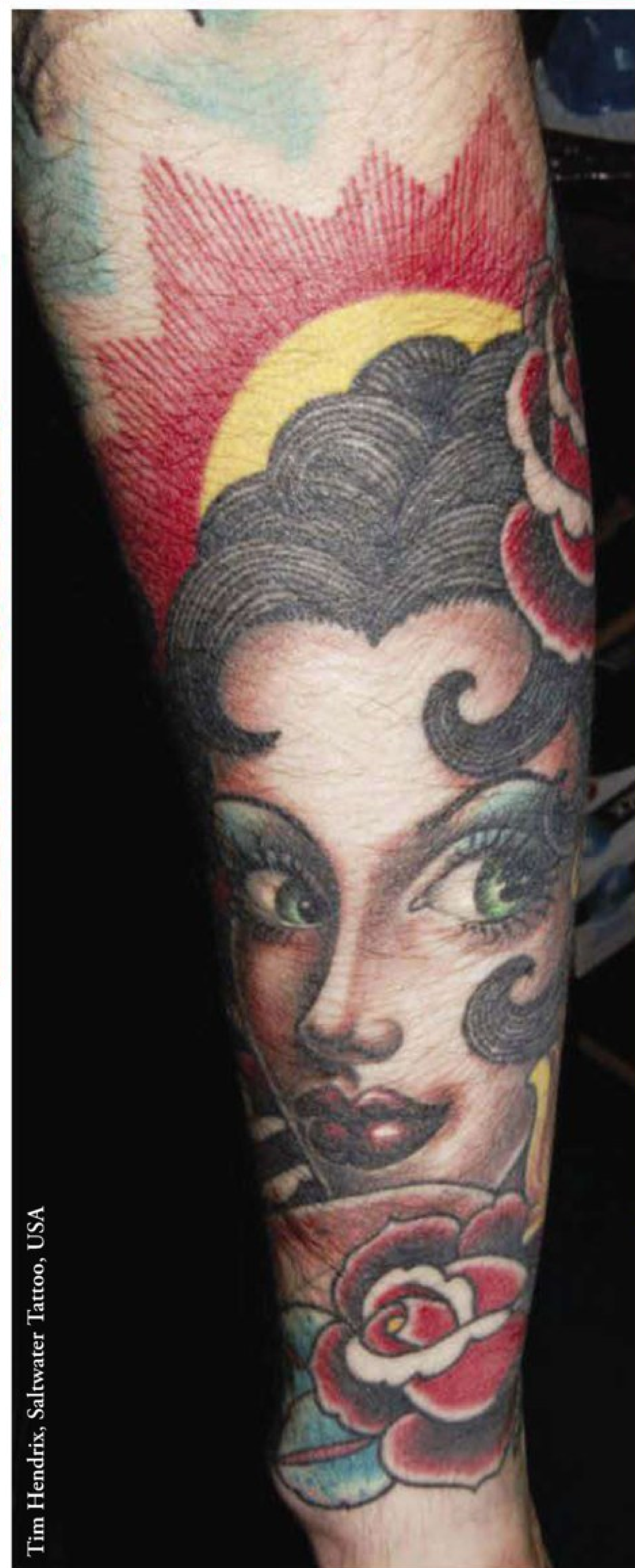
CONVENTION

15th-17th April 2011

19th Frankfurt

**TATTOO**  
**CONVENTION**





Tim Hendrix, Saltwater Tattoo, USA



TEXT BY ROSSELLA AMMENDOLA  
PHOTOS BY MARCUS EWERS

**AFTER CROSSING KILOMETERS OF MOUNTAINS AND AMAZING PLACES, WE REACHED THE 19<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE FRANKFURT CONVENTION. THIS YEAR THE TEMPERATURE WAS PLEASANT AND THIS MADE THE STAY EVEN BETTER THAN USUAL. UNDER THE SUN IN FRANKFURT, ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING EVENTS OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE TATTOO WORLD. AT LESS THAN A YEAR FROM THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, SINCE ITS FIRST EDITION, THIS CONVENTION APPEARS TO BE CONSTANTLY DEVELOPING AND EVOLVING, FILLED WITH ARTISTS AND AMAZING SHOWS.**

**I**nside the huge pavilion located in the Messe (fairgrounds) there are people walking of every age and nationality, young ones and less young, all sharing the same passion for tattoos. Between one hotdog and another, one pretzel and another, many visitors got

tattooed with Celtic subjects, dragons and much, much more.

A real army of tattoo machines buzzed away in the halls of the convention. Two artists really stood out at this edition for their work Valdy and his daughter Osa, famous artists of the German tattoo scene. But the shining star of this convention was Steve Soto, a master of the Chicano style, undisputed guest star of the show and representative of the Good Fellas tattoo studio, one of the most famous in California. Other names to mention are: Carlos Rojas, Andy Engel, whose horror

tattoos are always a big hit in Germany, Stichfest tattoo, My tattoo, Nick Stegall, Knock Over Decorate Tattoo, Respect tattoo art, the Danish artists of King of kings tattoo, Sinsentido tattoo, the Italians Antikorpo tattoo and Matteo Pasqualin tattoo, Tofino tattooing, and many, many others.

Once again a kickboxing ring was set up during the convention, even if the most fascinating performance was Sana Kazura, in art Sana xxx, who brought a touch of Orient to the North European city. Her show, called Hannya, surprised the audience for its energy and sensuality. Also her imitation of Johnny Cash





Stefano del Popolo, Pelleinkio, Italy



Kosa, Artline, Poland



Tom, Art of Paint, Germany





Noi Siamese, 1969 Tattoo, Norway



Takami, Knockover Tattoo, Japan

with tattooed sideburns and hair was a big hit. This is Germany! As always the vendors were numerous and there were lots of gadgets to buy. From super kitsch skull-shaped toilet paper holders, to statues of elves and fairies, from colored bags to pin-up clothing. The Italian vendor El Rana was also at the convention with his beautiful

silver items and his skateboards, and as for tattoo supplies the number one booth was as always the Sunskin family. They never miss the most important European conventions. Lots of music, fun, hotdogs and beer, too! The most important ingredients for the most famous European convention.

An important message for those of you who never attended this convention: try not to miss next year's event! The 20<sup>th</sup> edition will be a blast!





Gerrit, TattooMania, Holland



Mario, Illustration In Skin, Germany



Csaba, Ex Animo Tattoo, Germany



Zhivko, Bloody Blue, Czech Republic

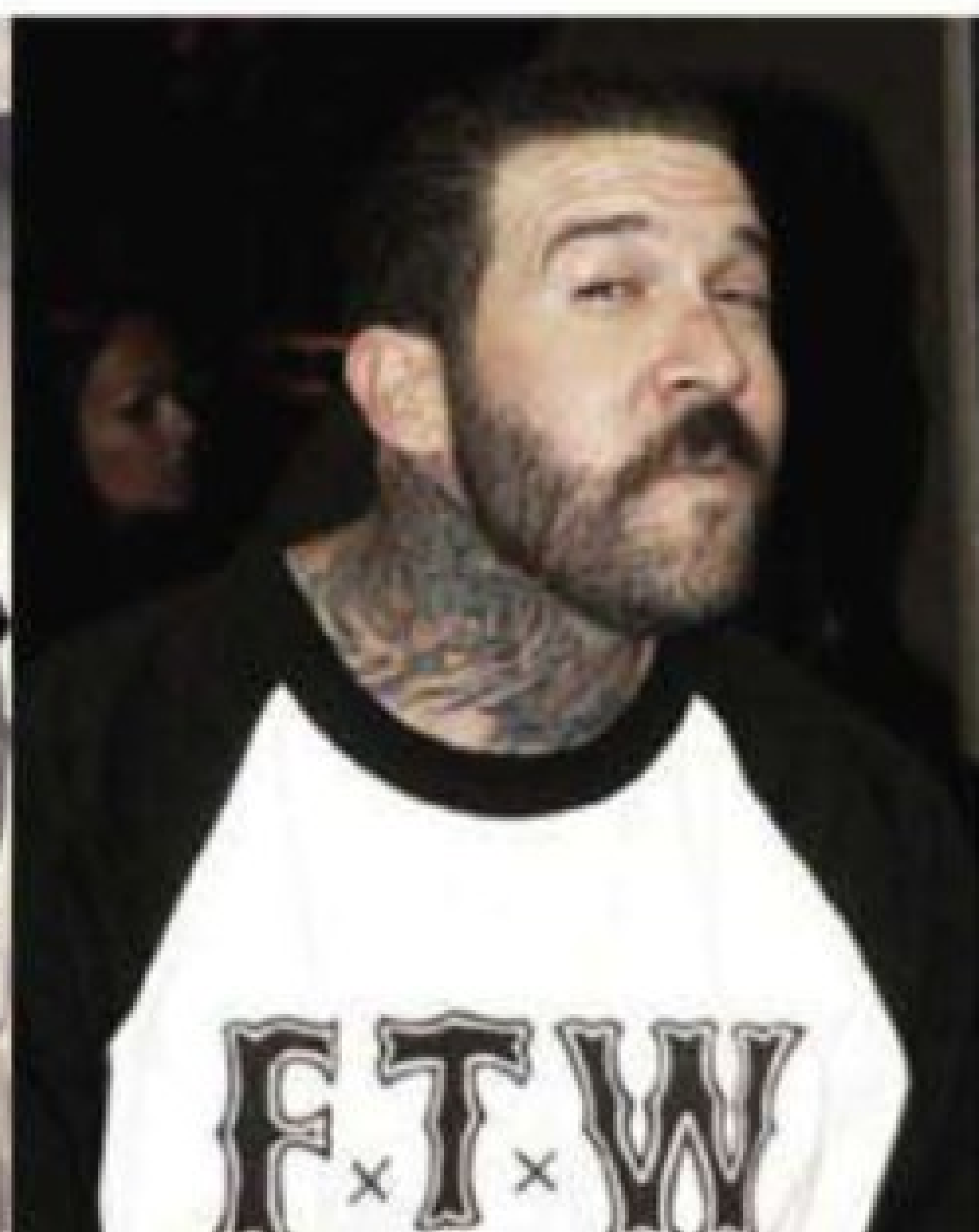


Emmy, Needle Art, Holland



Mario, Illustration In Skin, Germany





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OPENING PARTY

# POWER TATTOO PARTY

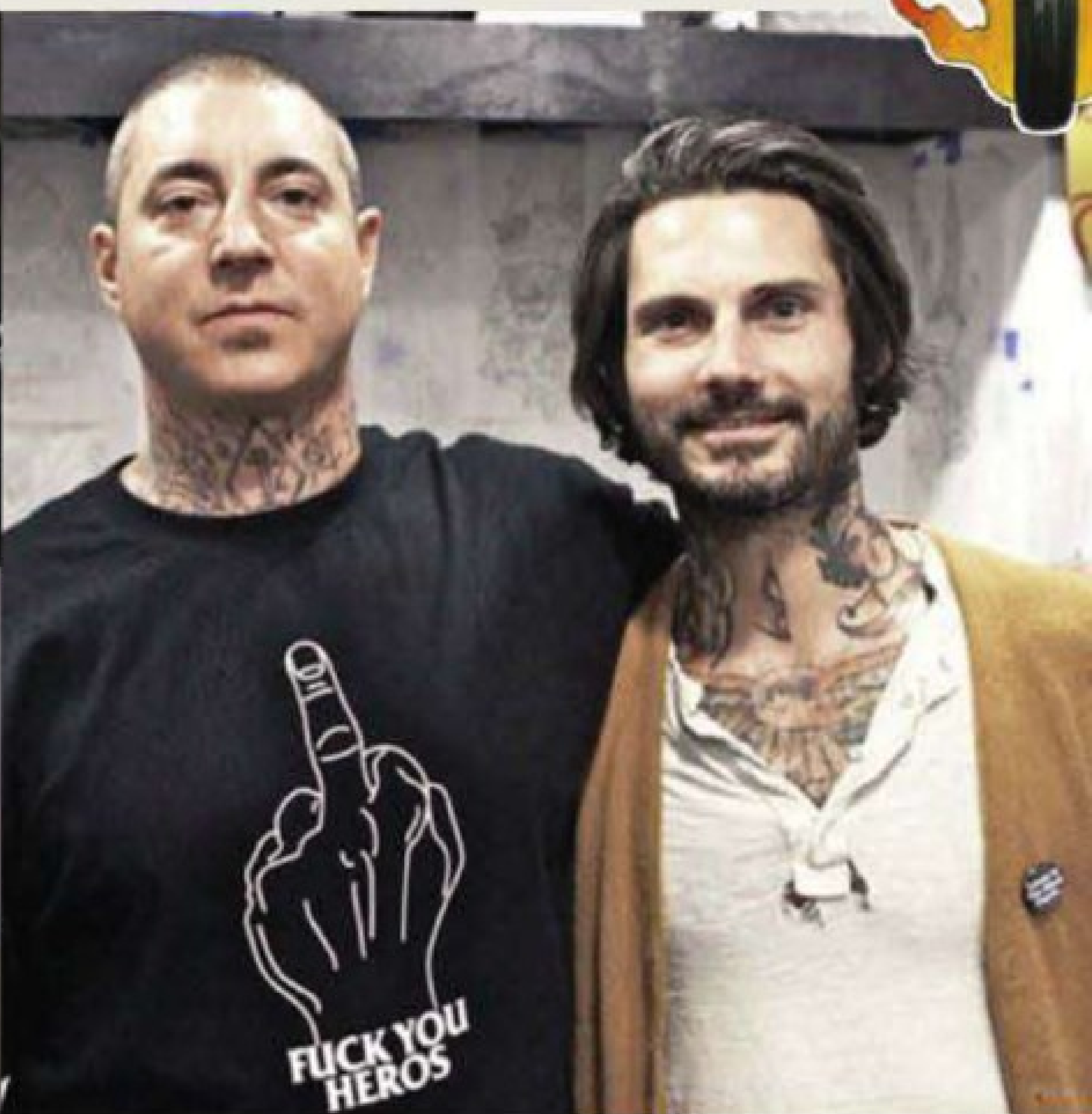
BY HORITAKA

PHOTOS B/G BY BEN GRILLO - COLOURS PHOTOS BY HANS MOLENKAMP

**I** JUST TOOK A TRIP DOWN TO SUNNY SAN DIEGO, THE EPITOME OF THE "CALIFORNIA DREAMING" LIFESTYLE TO WORK AT POWER TATTOO AND ATTEND THE OPENING PARTY. POWER TATTOO WAS OPENED BY CHRIS YVON IN VISTA, A FEW MINUTES OUT OF SAN DIEGO. IT'S A HUGE SHOP AND IS ALSO HOME TO BEN GRILLO, TURK, JULIE ANN, SEAN O'NEILL AND NICKY TWO DICKS. IT'S A SOLID, WELL ROUNDED CREW, AND A REALLY NICE SHOP! WITH OVER 4000 SQUARE

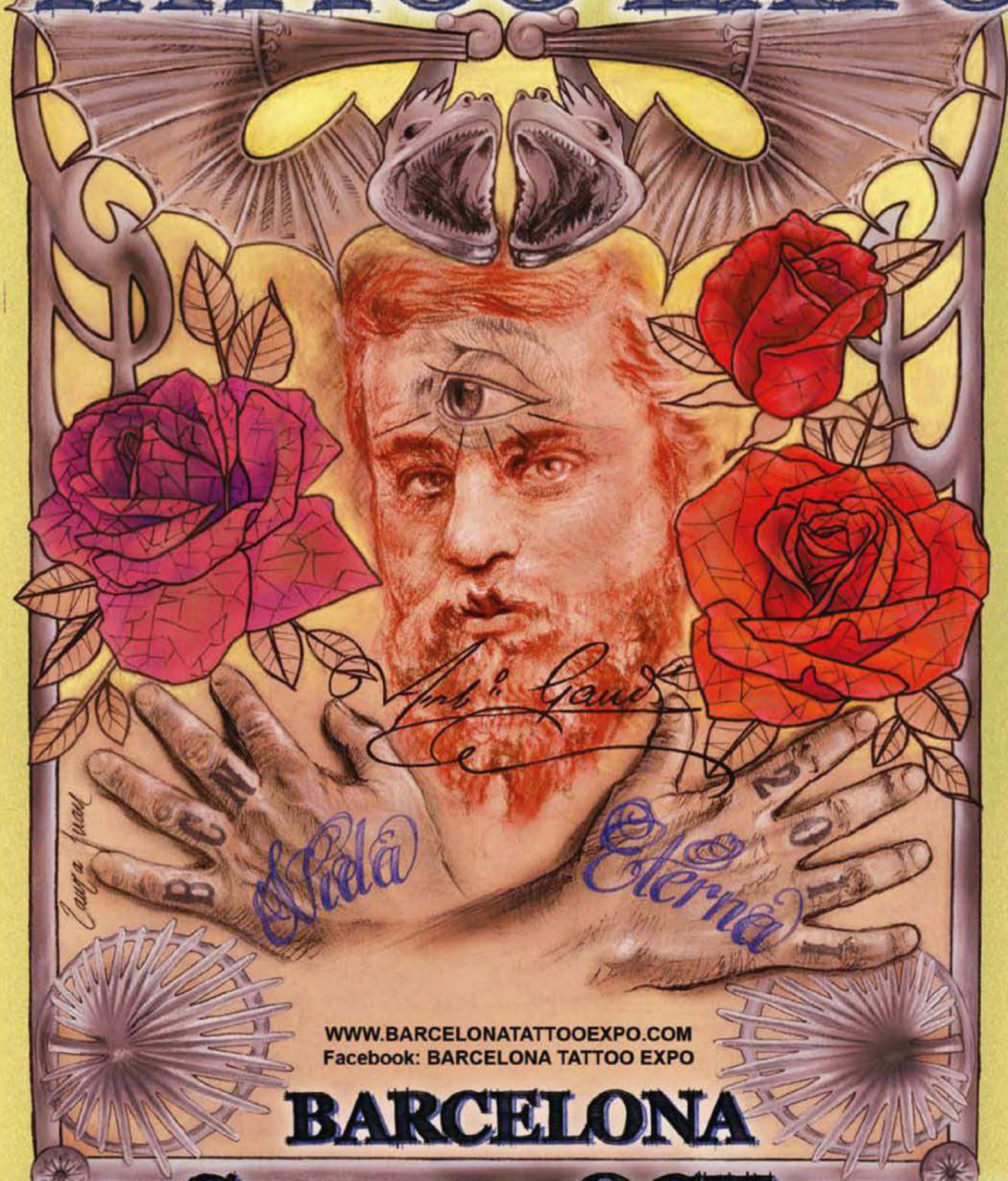
FEET, EACH ARTIST HAS THEIR OWN PRIVATE STATION AND EVERYTHING IS NEW AND CLEAN. THE OPENING PARTY WAS A MOTLEY CREW OF BIKERS, SKATEBOARDERS, SURFERS, PUNKERS, AND TATTOOERS! PRETTY MUCH REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SAN DIEGO LIFESTYLE!! CHRIS IS ALSO THE OWNER/DESIGNER FOR DEATH SQUAD- A LIFESTYLE BRAND CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF UNDERGROUND CALIFORNIA LIFE!! WITH SHIRTS, HATS, AND MOTORCYCLE PARTS, DEATH SQUAD WAS ALL OVER

THE PARTY!! IN ADDITION TO THE TALENTED IN-HOUSE TATTOO CREW AT POWER, I WAS THE FIRST OF MANY GUEST ARTISTS. ADAM CIFERRI AND BRENT PATTEN ARE SCHEDULED TO COME IN NEXT, PART OF CHRIS'S GOAL TO BRING TATTOOERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO SAN DIEGO! YOU CAN EXPECT MANY GOOD THINGS IN THE FUTURE FROM CHRIS AND POWER TATTOO!





# XIV INTERNATIONAL TATTOO EXPO



WWW.BARCELONATATTOOEXPO.COM  
Facebook: BARCELONA TATTOO EXPO

## BARCELONA

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COLABORAMOS CON:

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LUGAR DE CELEBRACIÓN:







Photo by: [illegible]

OPENING PARTY



# THE NEW KINGS AVENUE MANHATTAN

TEXT BY JUAN PUENTE  
PHOTOS BY RICHARD TODD

**N**EW YORK CITY, SOHO, JUST BLOCKS AWAY FROM WHERE SOME SAY NYC TATTOOING HAD ITS FIRST ORIGINS SUCH AS CHATHAM SQUARE, AND THE BOWERY HOTEL, KINGS AVENUE MANHATTAN HAS FINALLY ARRIVED. MIKE RUBENDALL

HAS DONE IT AGAIN WITH AN ALL-STAR CAST. WITH GREZ LEADING THE SHOW AND MAKING SURE THE MACHINE RUNS SMOOTHLY, THERE IS ALSO MATT BECKERICH, JUSTIN WEATHERHOLTZ, BRIAN PAUL, SARA SCHOR, KEVIN LEBLANC, AND SHAUN NEL. ON THE CORNER OF SPRING

AND BOWERY, THIS AMPLE SECOND FLOOR SPACE ALSO HAS A GUEST ARTIST LIST THAT WILL BRING YET MORE GRADE A VARIETY TO NY. OPENING APRIL 1ST, THE GRAND OPENING PARTY, HOSTED BY SAILOR JERRY RUM, WAS MAY 12 AND BROUGHT MANY TATTOO ARTISTS, FAMILY AND







FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE KINGS AVENUE'S ARRIVAL. AS THE PARTY CONTINUED INTO THE WEE HOURS, THERE WAS MORE TO BE HAD THAT WEEKEND WITH HOSTING CHRIS CONN'S SEMINAR "DRAWING WOMEN FOR TATTOO", WHICH WAS A SOLD OUT EVENT. BE SURE TO CATCH HIM IN SEPTEMBER

AT THE LONDON TATTOO CONVENTION. STARTING WITH KINGS AVENUE IN LONG ISLAND IN 2005, MIKE HAS ALWAYS HAD A VISION OF PUSHING TATTOOING TO ITS HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL, BY EXPANDING TO MANHATTAN, HE WISHES TO BROADEN

AND SHARE THIS WITH NYC AS WELL. MIKE SAYS, "THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR KINGS AVENUE. WE HAVE GONE THROUGH A LOT OF REALLY POSITIVE CHANGES AND FEEL THAT COLLECTIVELY WE WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN REDEFINING NEW YORK TATTOOING."





Body Piercing  
TATTOOLAND

TATTOO ARTIST

# Writing THE HISTORY BOOKS

## JACK RUDY

BY MAX DOLBERG

JACK RUDY IS NOTHING IF NOT A CHARACTER. HE TALKS FAST AND THINKS EVEN FASTER. JACK GOT STARTED TATTOOING IN THE MID-'70S AS AN APPRENTICE UNDER GOODTIME CHARLIE AT SEMINAL TATTOOLAND IN EAST LOS ANGELES. HE NOW RUNS HIS OWN SHOP, KOOLSVILLE, ALONG WITH

TATTOOLAND IN ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA. THE HIGHLY RESPECTED ARTIST IS WIDELY CREDITED WITH DEVELOPING THE BLACK-AND-GREY, SINGLE-NEEDLE STYLE OF AMERICAN TATTOOING BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE PRISON SYSTEM WHERE IT ORIGINATED WITH JURY-RIGGED MACHINES

AND PIGMENTS. JACK'S FINELINE PORTRAITS AND LETTERING HAVE MADE HIM A TATTOO LEGEND. OVER HIS 35-PLUS YEARS IN THE BUSINESS, JACK HAS AMASSED SO MANY STORIES THEY SPILL OUT OF HIM LIKE A RIVER OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND TATTOOING HISTORY. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE STORIES.

**"M**e and Goodtime Charlie Cartwright first met Ed Hardy in January of '77 at a convention. He saw what we were doing, the black-and-grey single-needle, and he was like flabbergasted by the whole thing. He'd never seen anything like that done in a shop. We were just doing our thing. That was 33 years ago in Reno, Nevada. It was only the second tattoo convention ever. The first one ever was in Houston, and I wanted to

go to that one too but Charlie didn't want to, so we didn't. I didn't know what the fuck a tattoo convention was. I was like, 'Hey, is that like a plumbers convention or something? Do you go party? Tattoo? What the fuck?' I'd never even heard of one. Anyway, that one was in Houston and the one we went to was in Reno, and we ended up driving from LA to Reno—in the snow because it was January.

"Our work was very special to us but we had no idea that we came out with the first new style of tattooing since electric tattooing began. There were









## TATTOO ARTIST



two choices in those days. You had what we now call 'traditional,' which was like regular, Americana, I don't know, whatever—if you had to give it a title. We called it 'Pike Style' because that's what they did on the pike; and then, for the most part, phony oriental style. Because there was only a handful of people—Ed Hardy, Don Nolan, Cliff Raven, Sailor Jerry, who died in '73—who were doing that stuff with any kind of accuracy at all. And that was it. That was your choices. Take it or leave it. So we came up with this black-and-grey, fineline thing because that was, for the most part, what we were getting requests for. And, Charlie and I both liked that kind of work anyway. I was doing that

kind of stuff on the streets before I met him. We didn't know what kind of impact it was going to have. And now there's 15 or 20 distinctive styles of tattooing, but not in those days. We had no idea how big it was going to get, how it was going to change tattooing. Other styles came along after that time. Guys like Greg Irons, who had this negative-space, kind of this cartoony but real advanced style of work. He had an illustration background and a really cool respect for pen and ink and lettering. That guy was a fucking genius. When I heard he was getting into tattooing I was like, 'You mean Greg Irons, the underground comic guy? Fuckin' A!' because I was a huge fan of his from

before I ever met him; from like in the '60s when he was doing his thing. And he died in 1984. He'd only been tattooing a few years. He got in to it somewhere around 1980. I got some work from him. I was one of the lucky people. But anyhow, then the tribal thing started getting popular and all these different styles came about. And like I say, there's so many styles now, you got the whole new-school thing, and that twist on cartooning thing and color realism and stuff that was just un-fucking-heard-of or thought-of in the old days. It just goes to show you man, 35 years is a long short time, yes it is. "Me and Charlie are doing a book on the history of black-and-grey







## TATTOO ARTIST



tattooing, which we sort of invented as far as it being done in a shop. It never had really been done in a shop before except for the occasional, you know, black panther or black rose of death or something like that. But black-and-grey work didn't really exist in a shop prior to us doing it. It definitely existed on the street and it existed in prison. But anyway, so we're doing that and it's a huge, huge project. I've got photos going back to 1976, from '76 to the present. A lot of them no one's ever seen. They've never been published. I've got thousands and thousands and thousands of photographs. I'm going to leave somebody something someday."

Max Dolberg is a freelance photographer and writer based in Southern California. He is also the in-house photographer at Analog Tattoo in San Jose and the director of photography at Bloodwork Books. Max has photographed two books on tattooing: 2006's *Full Coverage* and 2009's *Bloodwork:Sleeves*. See more of Max's work at [www.maxdolberg.com](http://www.maxdolberg.com) and [www.analogtattoo.com](http://www.analogtattoo.com).









# AGENDA

## *Transylvania*

**August 12/13/14, 2011**

Appointment with the Transylvania Tattoo Expo in Sibiu (Romania).

<http://www.tattooexpo.ro>

[adda@transilvaniatattoo.ro](mailto:adda@transilvaniatattoo.ro)

[ovidiu@transilvaniatattoo.ro](mailto:ovidiu@transilvaniatattoo.ro)

## *Pyysdorf-Kolpinghaus*

**August 12/13/14, 2011**

4th Starfire Tattoo Weekend in Austria.

[www.starfiretattoo.com](http://www.starfiretattoo.com)

## *Boxborough*

**August 12/13/14, 2011**

Appointment with tattoo in Massachusetts at the Art Riot Expo to be held at the Holiday Inn Boxborough, 242 Adams Place.

[www.arriotexpo.com](http://www.arriotexpo.com)

[deb@arriotexpo.com](mailto:deb@arriotexpo.com)

## *Norwich*

**August 13/14, 2011**

3rd Norwich Body Art Festival to be held at the St Andrew's and Blackfriars' Halls, St. Andrew's Plain (UK).

[www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk](http://www.norwichbodyartfestival.co.uk)

## *Gleisdorf*

**August 19/20/21, 2011**

The Austrian Styrian Tattoo Motor Show is back and will be held in Gleisdorf at the end of the summer.

[www.StyrianTattooShow.com](http://www.StyrianTattooShow.com)

## *Green Bay*

**August 25/26/27/28, 2011**

14th edition of Rick's International Tattoo Convention to be held at the KI Convention Center/Hotel Sierra in Wisconsin.

[rick@tattoosbyrick.com](mailto:rick@tattoosbyrick.com)

## *Phoenix*

**August 26/27/28, 2011**

New edition of the Hell City Tattoo Fest 2011 "Let The Sin Begin" in Arizona.

[www.hellcity.com](http://www.hellcity.com)

## *Stockholm*

**August 26/27/28, 2011**

New Stockholm Inkbash to be held at the Munchenbryggeriet in Stockholm (Sweden).

[www.stockholminkbash.net](http://www.stockholminkbash.net)

## *Jacksonville*

**September 2/3/4, 2011**

Do you want to go to Florida?

Well then go to the Jacksonville Tattoo Convention to be held at the Renaissance Resort/ World Golf Village.

[www.conventionpros.com](http://www.conventionpros.com)

[daughertyjack@hotmail.com](mailto:daughertyjack@hotmail.com)

## *Boston*

**September 2/3/4/5, 2011**

10th convention at the Back Bay Sheraton Hotel.

[www.bostontattooconvention.com](http://www.bostontattooconvention.com)

## *Turin*

**September 9/10/11, 2011**

New edition of the Italian Tattoo Artist Convention to be held in Turin, Italy.

[italiantattooartist@virgilio.it](mailto:italiantattooartist@virgilio.it)

## *Assen*

**September 9/10/11, 2011**

6th edition of the Assen Tattoo Convention (The Netherlands).

[www.tattooconventieassen.com](http://www.tattooconventieassen.com)

## *Montreal*

**September 9/10/11, 2011**

9th edition of the Art Tattoo Montreal Convention to be held at 1160 de la Gauchetière W. Downtown Montreal in Canada.

[www.arttattoomontreal.com](http://www.arttattoomontreal.com)

[info@arttattoomontreal.com](mailto:info@arttattoomontreal.com)

## *Silvi Marina*

**September 16/17/18, 2011**

7th edition for the East Coast Tattoo to be held at Palauniverso - Fiera Adriatica in Silvi Marina (Italy).

[www.eastcoasttattoo.it](http://www.eastcoasttattoo.it)

## *London*

**September 23/24/25, 2011**

New appointment with the International London Tattoo Convention, 7th edition, to be held as usual at Tobacco Dock in London.

[www.thelondontattooconvention.com](http://www.thelondontattooconvention.com)

## *Las Vegas*

**September 30 / October 1/2, 2011**

New appointment with the Biggest Tattoo Show on Earth at the Mirage Resort & Casino Las Vegas.

<http://lasvegastattooshow.com>

[info@lasvegastattooshow.com](mailto:info@lasvegastattooshow.com)

## *Barcelona*

**September 30 / October 1/2, 2011**

14th edition of the International Tattoo Expo to be held in La Farga de Hospitalet in Barcelona.

[www.barcelonatattooexpo.com](http://www.barcelonatattooexpo.com)

[convenciones@pro-arts.com](mailto:convenciones@pro-arts.com)

## *Ottawa*

**October 21/22/23, 2011**

3rd Ottawa-Gatineau Tattoo Expo to be held at the Hilton "Casino" Lac Leamy in Canada.

[www.ottawatattooexpo.com](http://www.ottawatattooexpo.com)

## *San Jose*

**October 21/22/23, 2011**

New appointment with at the SFO Hyatt regency for the convention organized by State of Grace.

[www.horitaka.com](http://www.horitaka.com)

## *Florence*

**November 4/5/6, 2011**

New appointment with the Florence (Italy) Tattoo Convention to be held at the Fortezza da Basso.

[www.florencetattooconvention.com](http://www.florencetattooconvention.com)

[info@florencetattooconvention.com](mailto:info@florencetattooconvention.com)

## *Trieste*

**November 18/19/20, 2011**

4th edition of the Trieste Tattoo Expo (Italy) to be held at the Modern and Contemporary Art Center, Former-Pescheria Centrale in Riva Nazario Sauro 1.

[www.triestetattoexpo.com](http://www.triestetattoexpo.com)

## *Berlin*

**December 2/3/4, 2011**

21st edition of the International Tattoo Convention Berlin (Germany).

[info@tattoo-convention.de](mailto:info@tattoo-convention.de)

## *Lyon*

**February 4/5, 2012**

Appointment with tattoo in Villeurbanne (France) for the Lyon Tattoo Convention

[www.lyontattooconvention.com](http://www.lyontattooconvention.com)

## *Belfort*

**April 14/15, 2012**

7th edition of the Belfort Tattoo Convention (France), to be held at the Hotel Novotel, Atria.

[belforttattoofamily@gmail.com](mailto:belforttattoofamily@gmail.com)

[www.belfort-tattoo-convention.com](http://www.belfort-tattoo-convention.com)



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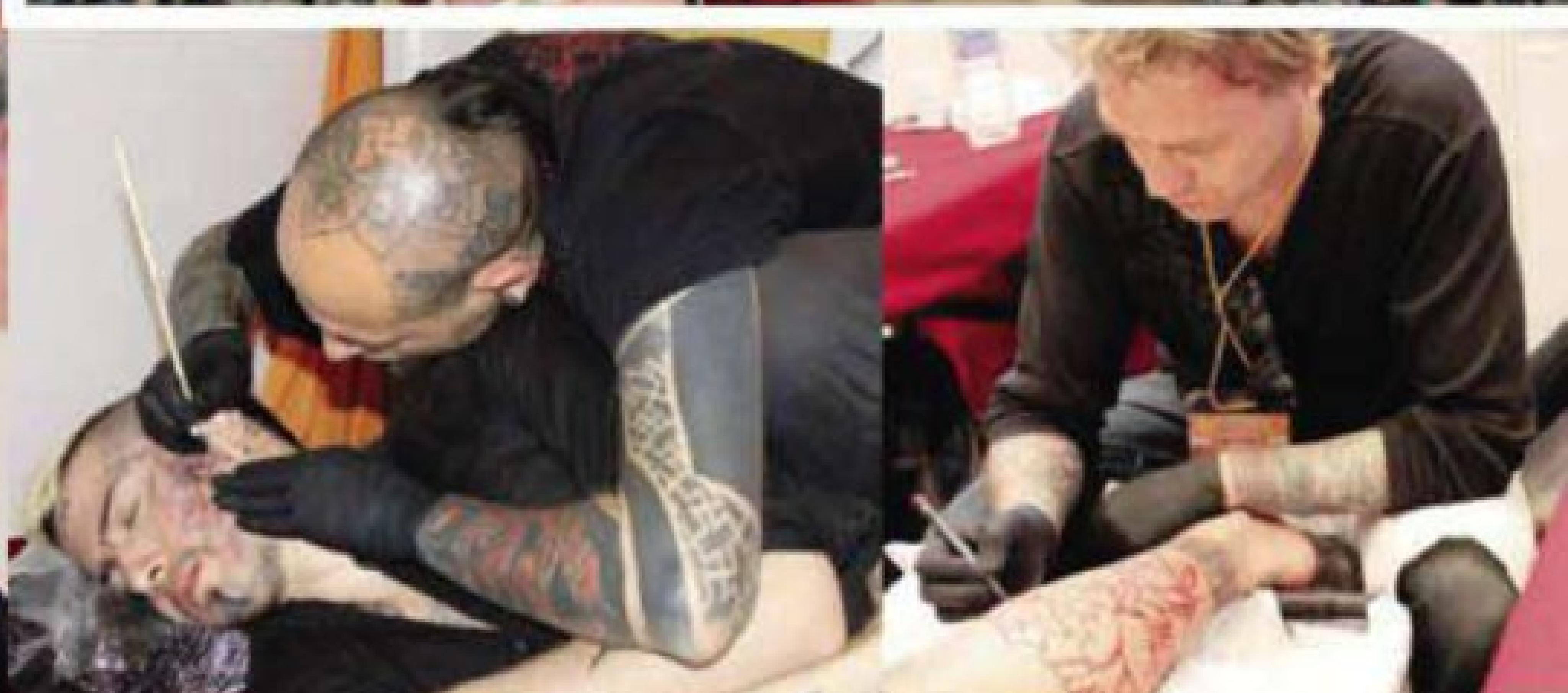
CONVENTION

# INTERNATIONAL NEPAL TATTOO CONVENTION

BY NATALIE



Mohan's Tattoo Inn, Kathmandu, Nepal



WHO NEVER THOUGHT OF A DESTINATION LIKE NEPAL, SO MAGICAL AND MYSTICAL? AND IT'S TATTOO THAT WILL BRING YOU HERE THIS TIME! AFTER A FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUGUST 2010 AND A LONG AND DIFFICULT JOURNEY, NEPAL IS READY TO OFFER THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION AND THE EVENT IS SUPPORTED

BY THE NEPAL YEAR OF TOURISM 2011. AN EVENT THAT IS NOT SO EASY TO ORGANIZE FOR THIS COUNTRY WHERE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS IS ELECTRICITY, THAT'S WHY THEY CHOSE SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS PLACE: THE REGAL BALLROOM OF THE YAK&YETI HOTEL, A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO CELEBRATE BODY ART...

**M**ohan Gurung, senior tattoo artist and one of the organizers said: «We chose this palace cause we really wanted the artists to feel comfortable and leave with a good feeling.»

«Here in Nepal is the beginning of tattoo art, I just want to promote tattoo and work harder to make it better for the young generation. This convention is a big opportunity to open the mind on other styles, techniques, talk with the artists, to learn. It should be a good and positive exchange»

The artists who took part in the Nepal Tattoo Convention 2011 include: **Marcuse** of Smilin' Demons Tattoo, **Dote** of Old Town Tattoo, **Marcus** of Body Modification, **Om** of Mohan's Tattoo Inn, **Swasi Dan** of Butland Ink, **Angel Romeral** of Dharma Tattoo, **Andrea Afferni**, **Filippo Bart** of La Vedova Nera,





Tatuiruysya, Pavel Vamp, Moscow, Russia



Mohan, Mohan's Tattoo Inn, Kathmandu, Nepal



Mohan, Mohan's Tattoo Inn, Kathmandu, Nepal



Swasi Dan, Butland Ink, Germany



**Jae Connor** of Electric Lotus Tattoo, **Kostas** of Prive Tattoo, **Lion-Lam** of Autogenic Lab and **Laurent Maïna** (on the road). But the list could go on with **Adam** of Electric Tattoo Ladies, **Jey** of Jey Ink, **Quentin** of Kalima Emporium, **Manjeet** of Manjeet Tattooz and many others.

The winners of the Nepal Tattoo convention were mostly Thai tattooists. The work of **Jiep Zanco** won "best front piece", "leg black&grey", "one best of day" and "best of show". But also the work on full back of **Kob** from Patong Anesthesia. And **Phatin Lueangcheng** from Aod Tattoo, Bangkok who won thanks to a colorful tattoo on the arm designed on the first day.

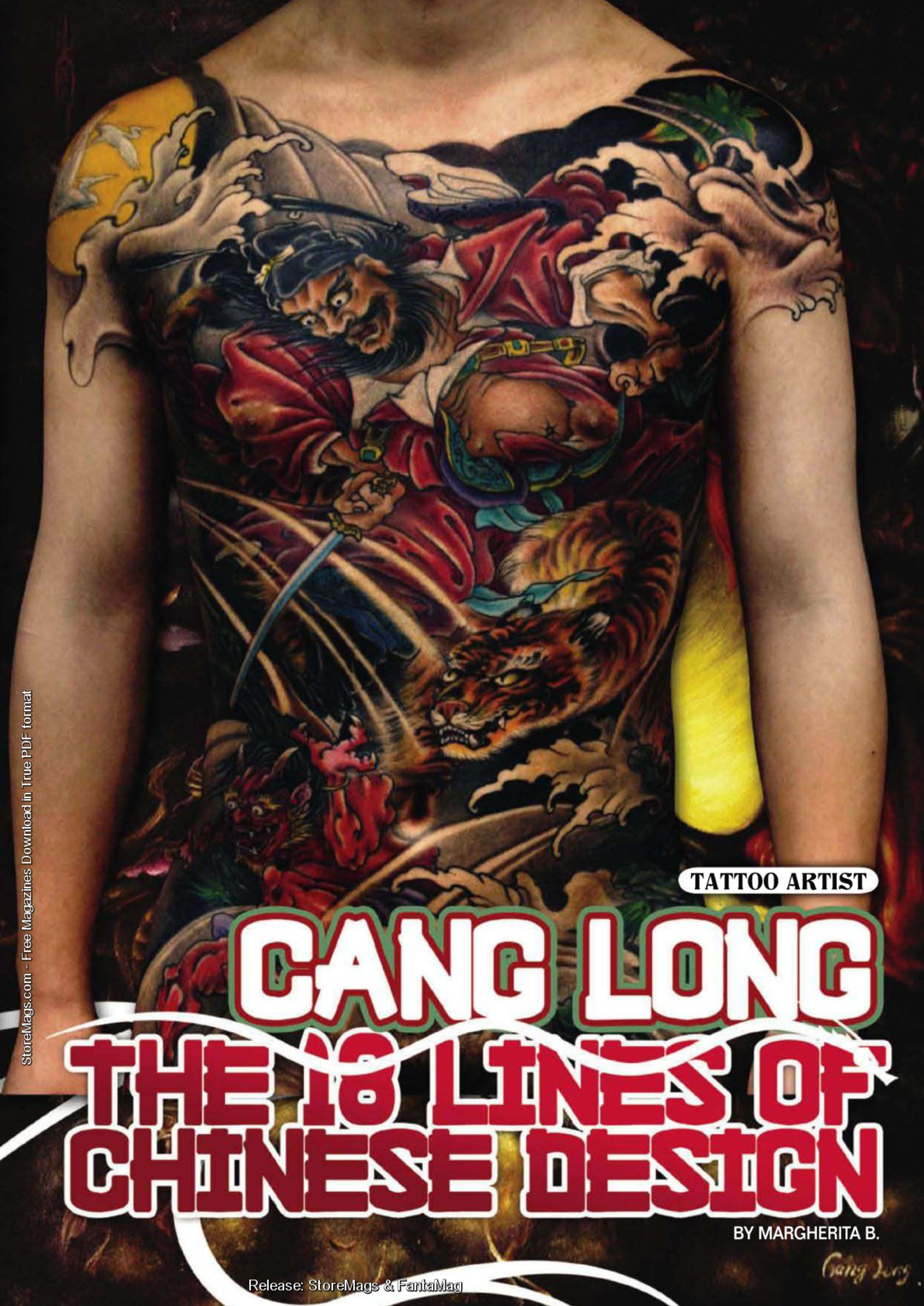
**Yesramiya Chaudhary** and **Somiya Chaudhary** from Chitwan Tharu community were also there to represent the old traditional tattoo culture of Nepal. Their tattoos were made with mix of breast milk and homemade khôl when they were only fourteen for their wedding, which was about around 50 years ago. **Guinness Rishi** from India, 70 years old, was there too. He holds the world record of having over 200 flags tattooed on his body...





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TATTOO ARTIST

# CANG LONG

## THE 18 LINES OF CHINESE DESIGN

BY MARGHERITA B.

*Cang Long*



THERE ARE MORE AND MORE TALENTED CHINESE TATTOOERS IN THE PANORAMA OF INTERNATIONAL TATTOO. CANG LONG IS ONE OF THESE. HIS STUDIO IS IN SHANGHAI AND HIS TATTOOS ARE A TRIBUTE TO

THE ANCIENT CHINESE DESIGN AND AN INTERESTING REPRESENTATION OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES AND FEATURES BETWEEN SYMBOLS, 18 LINES AND CHARACTERS OF THE POPULAR TRADITION.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO OUR READERS?**

My name is Shen Weiguo, born in Jia Xing in 1796. I've like drawing randomly since I was a child. I don't like school, I draw on the each book of every subject. So you can imagine what my grades are like. I have never

studied in a professional drawing school till now. I am constantly studying now to make up for the years I've missed.

**YOU HAVE A TATTOO SHOP IN SHANGHAI. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE AS TATTOOIST, HOW DID YOU START, WHERE AND HOW DID YOU OPEN YOUR STUDIO?**

I saw tattoos on adults when I was

young, I really liked them. One of my friends was a tattooist, he knew I was good at drawing and let me draw some flash for his customers at that time. After some weeks he let me try to tattoo on a real body, Since then, I've discovered my passion for tattoos and began my tattooing career. But I was 17 at the time. I opened my first studio in Zhe Jiang in 1998, and moved twice, my current studio is the fourth. Tattoo life brings me much





happiness. I think I won't give it up for a while.

**YOUR TATTOOS ARE NATURALLY IN ORIENTAL STYLE, WITH BOTH CHINESE AND JAPANESE INFLUENCES. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO DIFFERENT STYLES AND MOSTLY CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THE ICONS AND DESIGNS OF THE CHINESE STYLE?**

Chinese traditional fairy tale influences me so much, those stories make me think a lot. In fact I didn't know much about Japanese culture before, I started to study Japanese tattoos when I began my tattoo life. Japanese traditional tattoo representations influence me a lot. In my opinion, there are some differences between Chinese and Japanese cultures. I clearly see there is a Japanese culture root in

Chinese culture. Most of the Japanese traditional mythical characters are rooted in Chinese fairy tales.

I am not sure whether Western people know this. For example: "The Romance of the Three Kingdoms", "Journey to the West the Water Margin", Aeolus, Thor and so on. Japanese tattoo already has its own representations. Chinese tattoo is only 10 years old, so Chinese tattoo artists need more time to make an effort.

**WHAT ARE THE "TRADITIONAL" SYMBOLS OF THE CHINESE STYLE?**

Chinese Traditional style focuses on feeling and flavor. Almost all ancient drawings of every nationality use lines to depict stuff. After that, there are two ways: light and shadow and colors as concerns western painting, and black lines for eastern painting. Chinese drawing lines is one of the







most attractive representations in eastern cultures. Because there is a very close connection between Chinese painting and Chinese words, the drawing lines are very similar to handwriting.

The artist creates many different lines in order to show different stuff. Lines in Chinese paintings are not only thin and long, rough and thick lines are also used.

Every line has an iconic name, such as floating lines, worm lines, all together they are called "Eighteen Lines", each has a different use. So to speak there is an endless expressive force in Chinese painting lines.

#### **WHICH REPRESENTATIONS DO YOU PREFER?**

I like the representations that bring me inspiration, I like western tattoos

too. No matter which representations are used, a good tattoo always catches people's eyes.

#### **COLOR IS VERY IMPORTANT IN YOUR PIECES. HOW DO YOU CHOOSE WHICH COLOR TO USE?**

Usually it depends on the topic and temperament, gender of the customer. I prefer traditional colors.

#### **AND WHICH INFLUENCES DID YOU GET FROM THE JAPANESE STYLE?**

The integrity and background of Japanese traditional style influences me a lot. It gives me lots of energy.

#### **ANY ARTIST IN PARTICULAR?**

The biggest influence for me is Horiyoshi. He inherits most of the icons of the Japanese traditional artists. His works are full of ancient flavor.

#### **CAN I MAKE A COMPARISON BETWEEN YOUR PIECES AND SHIGE'S? DO YOU LIKE THIS ARTIST? YOU USE COLOR AND LINES IN A VERY SIMILAR WAY. DO YOU AGREE?**

Shige is also one of my favorite artists. There is some similarity between our lines. Japan inherits the culture of the Chinese Tang Dynasty. Those lines were already used by Chinese artists thousands of years ago. We are both eastern guys, we cannot step out of this ancient influence.

#### **DO WESTERN TATTOOS INFLUENCE YOU IN SOME WAY?**

Western tattoo and drawing changed my understanding of tattoo in the past. Past eastern traditional tattoo is quite graphic, so I add some light and shadow and more details in the traditional tattoo.



# CANG LONG

TATTOO ARTIST



**LET'S GET BACK TO TODAY. DESCRIBE YOUR TATTOO SHOP. IN WHICH PART OF THE CITY IS IT AND WHAT'S THE ATMOSPHERE INSIDE?**

Since I prefer quiet areas, our studio is located in a quite cozy street in Shanghai. The atmosphere inside is random, comfortable, practical. We have 5 people including myself. We are just like a big family.

**WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TOO?**

I always listen to some Chinese traditional music, such as Guqin, Xiao. I also like pop music and listen to western hard rock sometimes.

**ARE THERE ANY IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS IN CHINA?**

There are some conventions in China,

but not international.

Hope we can gear up to international standards soon.

**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO ANY CONVENTIONS IN EUROPE OR AMERICA? WILL WE SEE YOU HERE SOON?**

I have been a guest artist in Last Rites in New York. I have never been to any conventions in Europe till now. I would be very glad to attend.

**ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD FOR OUR READERS?**

I hope you love my works, welcome to China. Welcome to our studio, also welcome to all good Western artists who want to join us as a guest artist in our studio.







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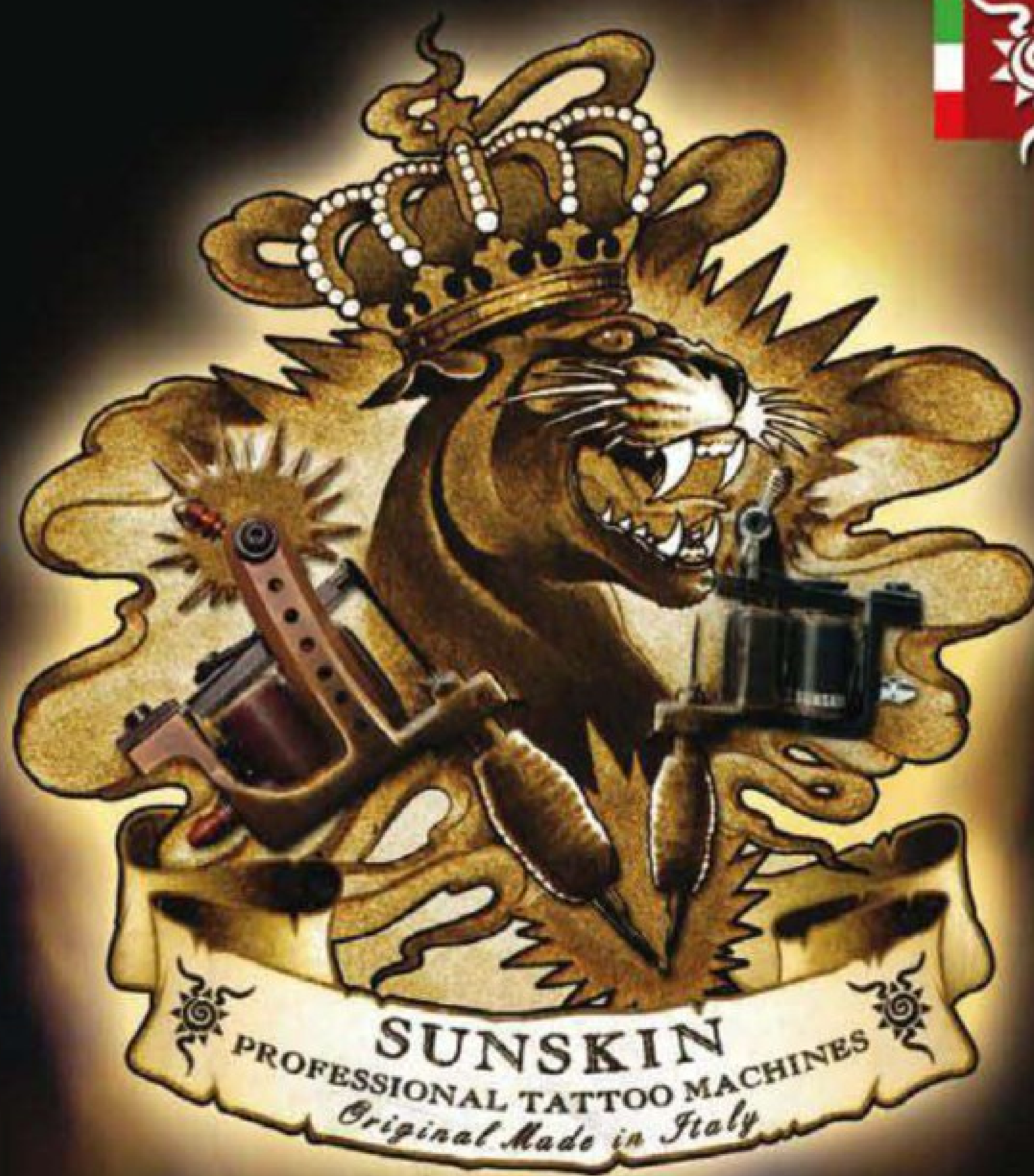
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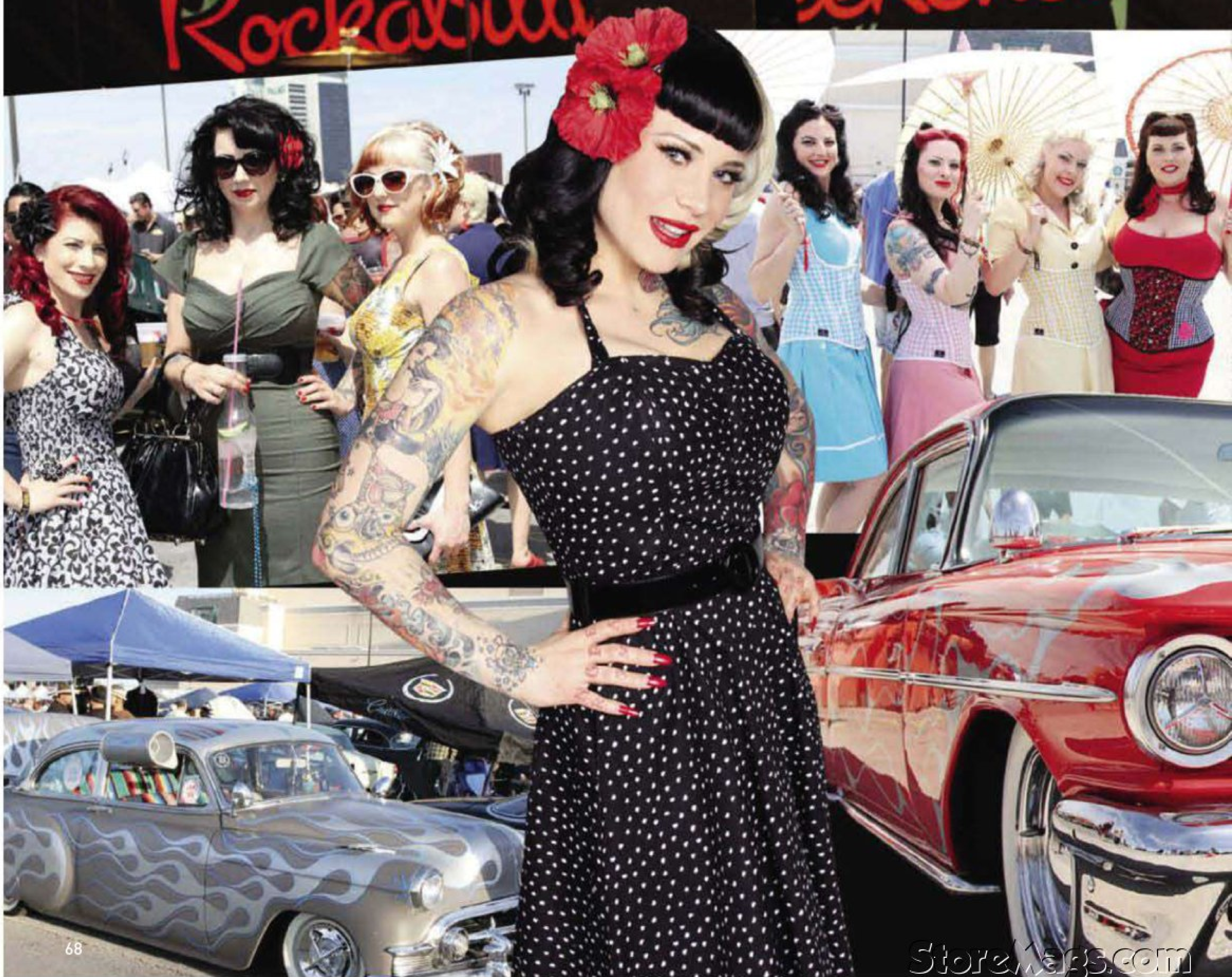
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CONVENTION

TEXT BY SIERRA ROSE  
PHOTOS BY SUSANA VICTORIA

Viva Las  
VEGAS  
21st - 24th April 2011  
Rockabilly Weekend







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## CONVENTION



Joel Dodds, Lodi, USA



Phil Geck, Vacaville, USA

**“SURREAL”, “CAPTIVATING”, “AMAZING”, “FANTASTIC”.  
THOSE ARE JUST A FEW WORDS OFFERED UP BY THE ATTENDEES OF THE  
14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VIVA LAS VEGAS ROCKABILLY WEEKENDER.**

**L**as Vegas is a world of its own, offering shows, restaurants, shopping, and, of course, blackjack and poker tables, slot machines and ladies clad in sequined leotards serving up stiff drinks. This event is a perfect complement to the flavor of Vegas. Spectacular shows, amazing artwork, and of course plenty of live music and dancing bring thousands of people to this event every year. Fourteen years and counting, this event has been the Mecca of the Rockabilly community, driving their hot rods through the desert to this international meeting of the multitudes. Viva Las Vegas Rockabilly weekend is Tom Ingram's masterpiece, and it is the largest event of its kind and caliber in the entire world. The first VLV had an attendance of 2,000- today multiply that number by 10 and generously add a few thousand. This year's event sold out weeks in advance.







Dennis, Absoulre Tattoo, San Diego, USA



Champ, Big Fish Tattoo, Cardiff, USA



Clare Watch, Historic Tattoo, Portland, USA



After 6 hours of driving through the night, the bright lights of the Las Vegas strip awoke me to the realization that this weekend would be a wild one. These aficionados of the good ol' days definitely outdo their predecessors, as some events START at 1, 2, even 3 and 4 AM. Our first stop was King Ink inside the Mirage Hotel, where Sabina Kelley was the guest of honor, and introduced us to the Deadbeat Magazine staff who came all the way from Australia to check out the festivities. King Ink is Mario Barth's tattoo studio with a loaded bar that sets the scene for a posh nightclub in the evenings, and is definitely a work of art, with a ceiling full of Mario's best work. Hot rods lined the front of the club, and gorgeous gals wearing Sailor Jerry

t-shirts topped off my rum and coke generously. One more of the inaugural events we couldn't pass up was at a tiki bar a few miles off the strip. We couldn't forget to say hello to another of our favorite pin-up bunch, the ladies from Pin-Up Girl Clothing, who were hosting a slightly more traditional gathering at Frankie's Tiki Room. I got to chat to Laura Byrnes, founder of the brand, and Masuimi Max about what were in the cards for the weekend, and they really got my blood pumping! Driving up to the Orleans where pin-up vixens, hot rods, and burlesque shows awaited tantalized





Dwayne, Tower Tattoo, San Diego, USA



J.D. OKelly, Electric Tattoo, Portland, USA



James Tex, Deadly Tattoos, Calgary, Canada







my senses! I had a bit of an idea of what was to come, but every one of my expectations was exceeded. I cannot list every band, model, show, or contest- it would take pages upon pages. This four-day event spans all of the Orleans Hotel and several clubs along the strip dedicating evenings to the very best in rockabilly music, catwalk shows, meet and greets, bands- some overlapping so you would have to split yourself into several pieces to make it to each event. I wasn't able to catch a glimpse of everything, but got to taste enough to make me want to come back for seconds.

Friday's main attraction was obvious when I arrived in the morning. A line had formed hours before the ticket booth had opened- The VLV Fashion Show promised to feature the hottest names in the industry. Among them, Sabina Kelley, Kay O Hara, and Kitten DeVille strutted on the catwalk in some amazing lines. That evening I saw some of the hottest burlesque shows on the scene. Victoria Vengeance's showcase featured many of today's best performers. There were three burlesque shows on Friday evening and an amazing contest on Saturday evening.

The car show would be my headquarters for Saturday, and it was the largest gathering of the hot rod variety I had ever laid eyes on.



Laura satana, Exxxotic Tattoo, Paris, France



Sleeve, Matt Kolling, Minneapolis, USA



Jen The Tattoo Fairy, Sanctuary Tattoo, Portland, USA



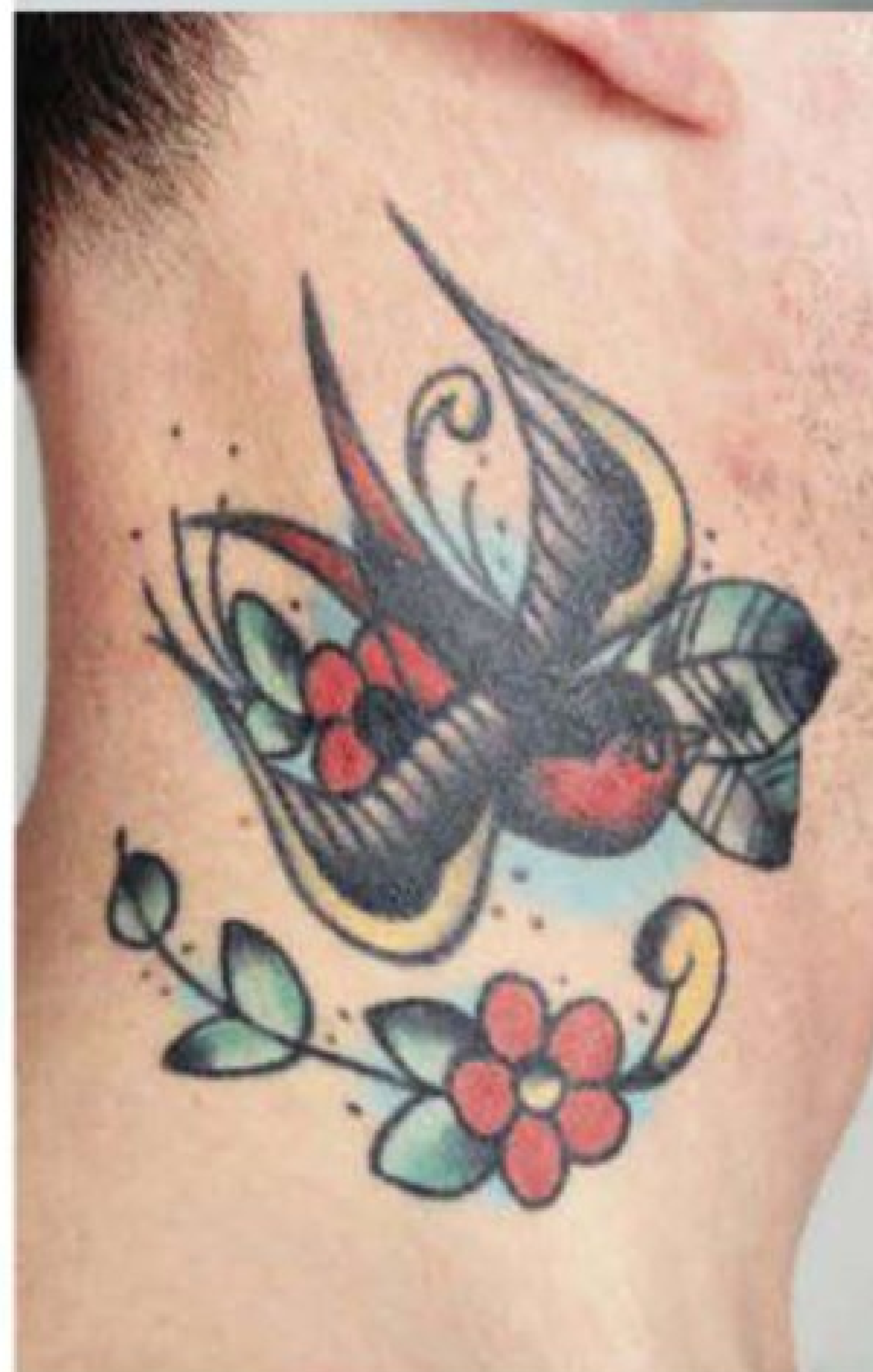
CONVENTION







Kyle Walker, Guru Tattoo, San Diego, USA



J.D. OKelly, Electric Tattoo, Portland, USA



James Tex, Deadly Tattoos, Calgary, Canada



Dennis, Absolute Tattoo, San Diego, USA



Dennis, Absolute Tattoo, San Diego, USA

Jesper Bram- pin striper, artist, and journalist from Denmark said it best. "There are so many incredible cars. I could spend a whole week here just shooting the cars." I don't have enough real estate in this article to tell you all about the car show, but let me just say the headlining act was musical genius Jerry Lee Lewis. As I walked around the event, I noticed almost every pin-up was tattooed, and especially popular were the sailor inspired variety. American traditional is the tattoo style of choice in this subculture. Bright American traditional tattoos grazed the arms, chests, legs, backs, and even faces of most everyone I came into contact with during the day. Tattooed arms are covered in the evenings as the men emerge in their best suits, and every lady gets into her highest heels to dance the night away (Did I mention I did the same?). Recuperating from this weekend takes almost as long as

getting ready for it- and hotel rooms for next year's Viva are already booking up. Do yourself a favor and get some plane tickets to this fine city- and a few 6 packs of "4 Hour Energy." Special thanks to Alisha Alexander and Violet Fiori for all their assistance and support!



PAINTINGS



# "Persistence of Art"

## ART SHOW AT BULLSEYE TATTOOS

PHOTOS: COURTESY BULLSEYE TATTOOS



able to express themselves in ways that he or she do not always have a chance to in their daily professional life's.

"Persistence of art" named so because of the constant need for artists to develop and express

themselves. With the artists' constant strive of their own art development not only in their tattooing but also in their own personal art, the event was a great success and Bullseye promises to hold future events and expand this idea

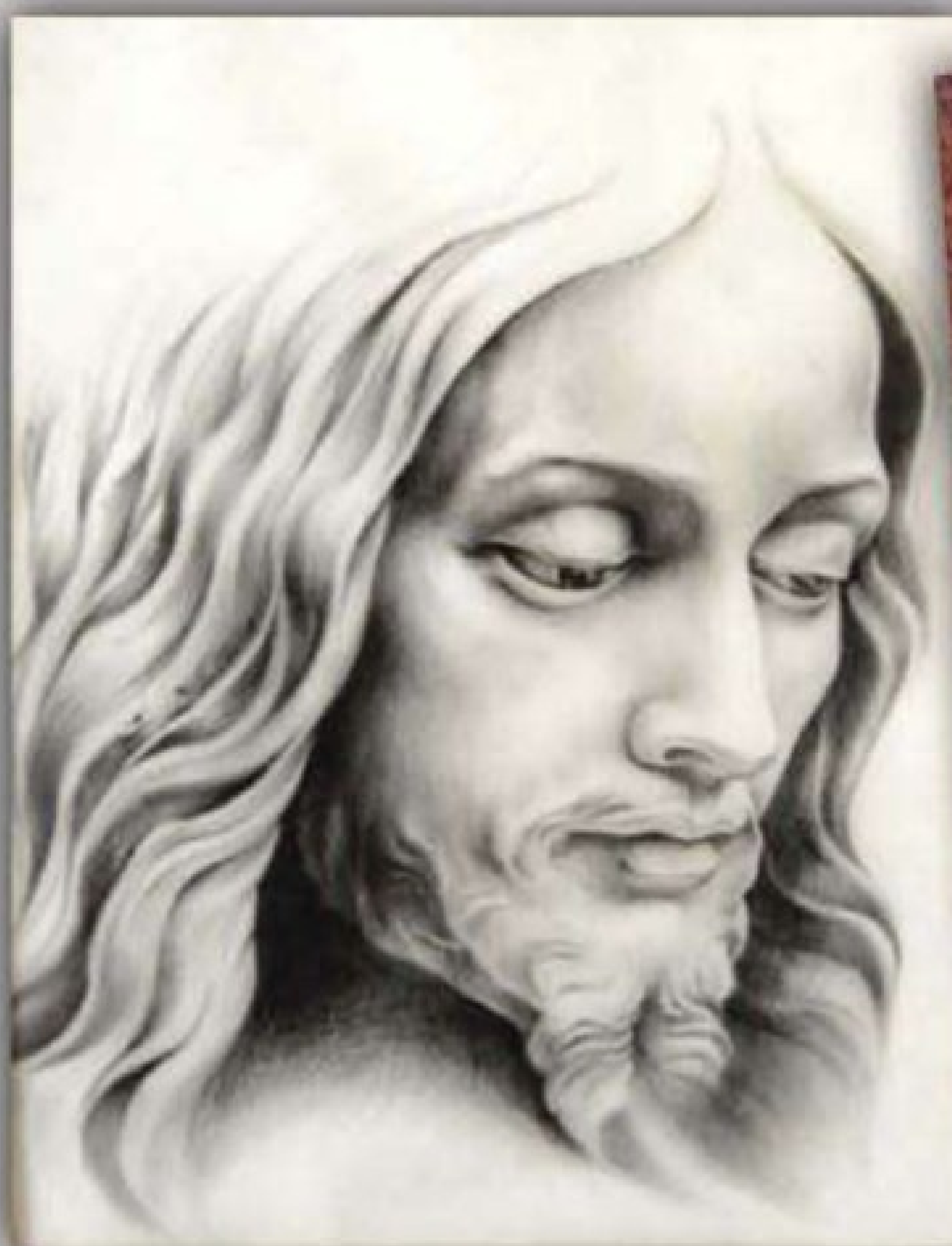
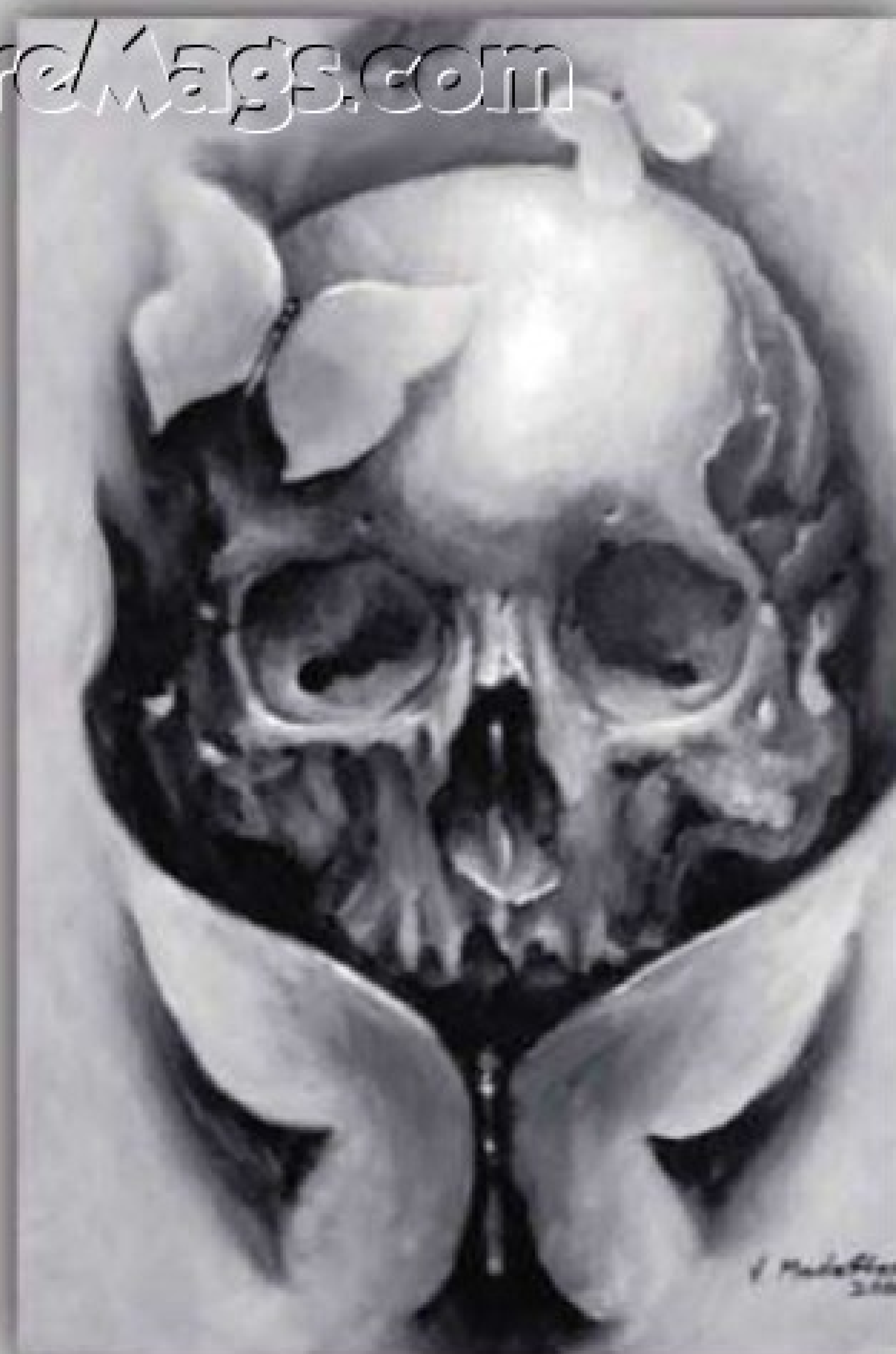
**T**he world famous Bullseye Tattoos based in Staten Island, New York held its first major art gallery exhibition of works by renowned tattoo artists from across the globe.

Artists that exhibited in this mix media exhibition where Joe Capobianco, Tom Strom, Victor Modafferi, Keith Ciaramello, Scottso, Vince Villalvazo, Cory Norris, John Sweeney, Chris lowe, Liz Manzolini, Tamara Weiss, Steve Skelly, Cesar Arroyo, Johny Thief,

Jessica Brennan, just to name a few. Artists contributed work in media such as oil on canvas, acrylic, water colour, pencil sketch, collage and also sculpture.

The exhibit named "Persistence of Art" was a chance for tattoo artists to demonstrate their artistic skills in the medium of their choice with the intention that it did not have to be tattoo related. This made the artists free and





York Fashion Institute of technology. Bullseye has now been running for 9 years and grows stronger and stronger each day selling some of the worlds most renowned artist designs, flash, Dvd's, sketch books and now Fine art. Any Tattoo artist, painters and sculptures that have an interest in contributing to future art shows can get in contact with Liz Manzolini at Bullseye tattoos. For further details of Art work that you have seen and are interested in from this exhibit you can contact Liz Manzolini, curator of this event who will be able to give you further information on price, size and shipping.

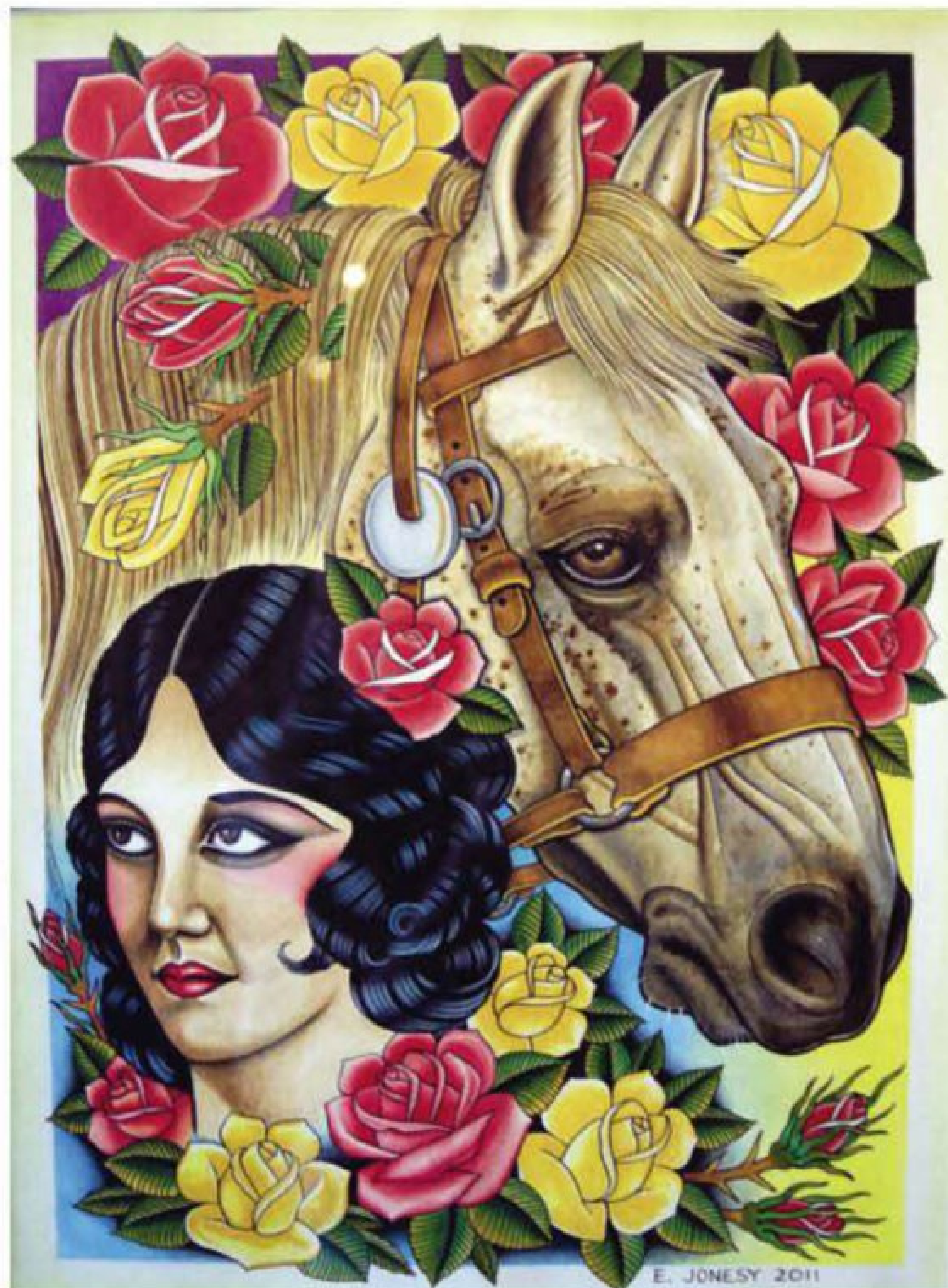


further with a bigger exhibition space . Bullseye tattoos inc is a collective of co-founders Victor Modafferi and Eric lovino, who share similar educational backgrounds receiving various degrees in illustration from the New

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# ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT TORCH TATTOO

BY HORITAKA - PHOTOS BY BRYNNE WORTHY



**O**n May 21st, 2010, Justin Warn opened Torch Tattoo in southern California with

the help of his right hand man, Kyle Crowell. To celebrate the first anniversary of the shop, Justin and Kyle threw an impressive art show and party. The ambiance was set by a ragtime piano player, who happens to

be a 36 year veteran of playing down the street at Disneyland. Family, friends and clients came out to show support, have some fun, and take in some incredible art from all over the world.

Some of the artists participating were: Justin Warn, Kyle Crowell, Chris Brand, Chuey Quintinar, Aaron Coleman, Tim McAlary, Eric Jones, Lindsey Carmichael, Tom Moser,



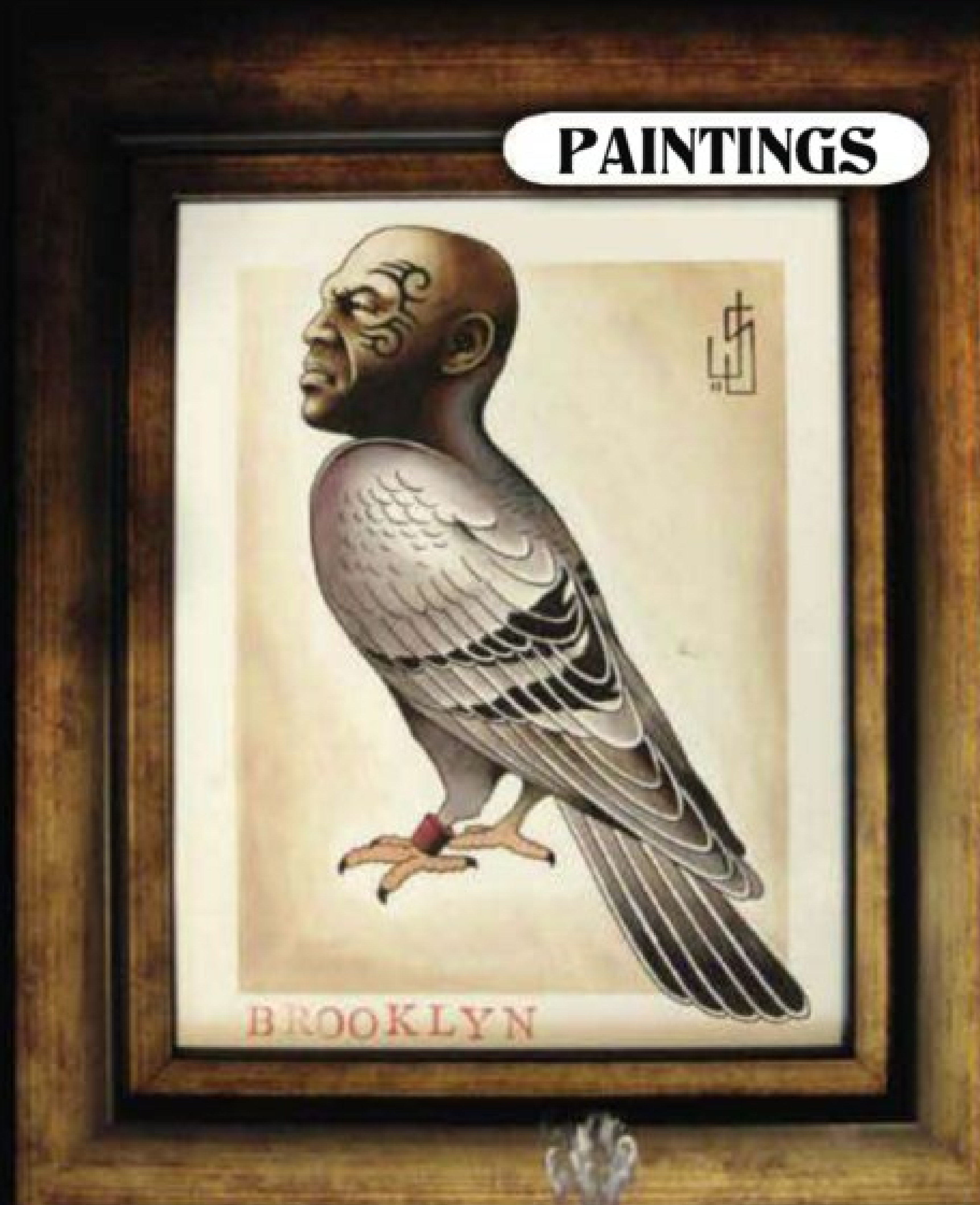




Andreas Ramstedt, Dalmiro, Bob Tyrell, Jason Anderson, Klem, Matt Shamah, Losey, Bill German, Jeffery Page, Hek, Noodles, Dan Smith, Dan Dringenberg, James Yocum, Henry Powell, Noelle Beaudry, Steve Turner, Neil Wilson, Julian Zeff, Chip Douglas, Dusty Neal, Sara Samez, Jim Sylvia, Brother Greg, Davide, Spencer Hodgson, Solgr Tovar, Gordo, Johnny Vampotna, Jackie Dunn Smith, Drew Linden, Jack Mauk, Brynne Worthy, and Blake Worthy. Definitely an impressive list and a nice reflection of the



## PAINTINGS



social standing of Torch Tattoo!

The evening came to end under the glow of the Disneyland fireworks! It was a night to remember, and definitely something to look forward to next year!



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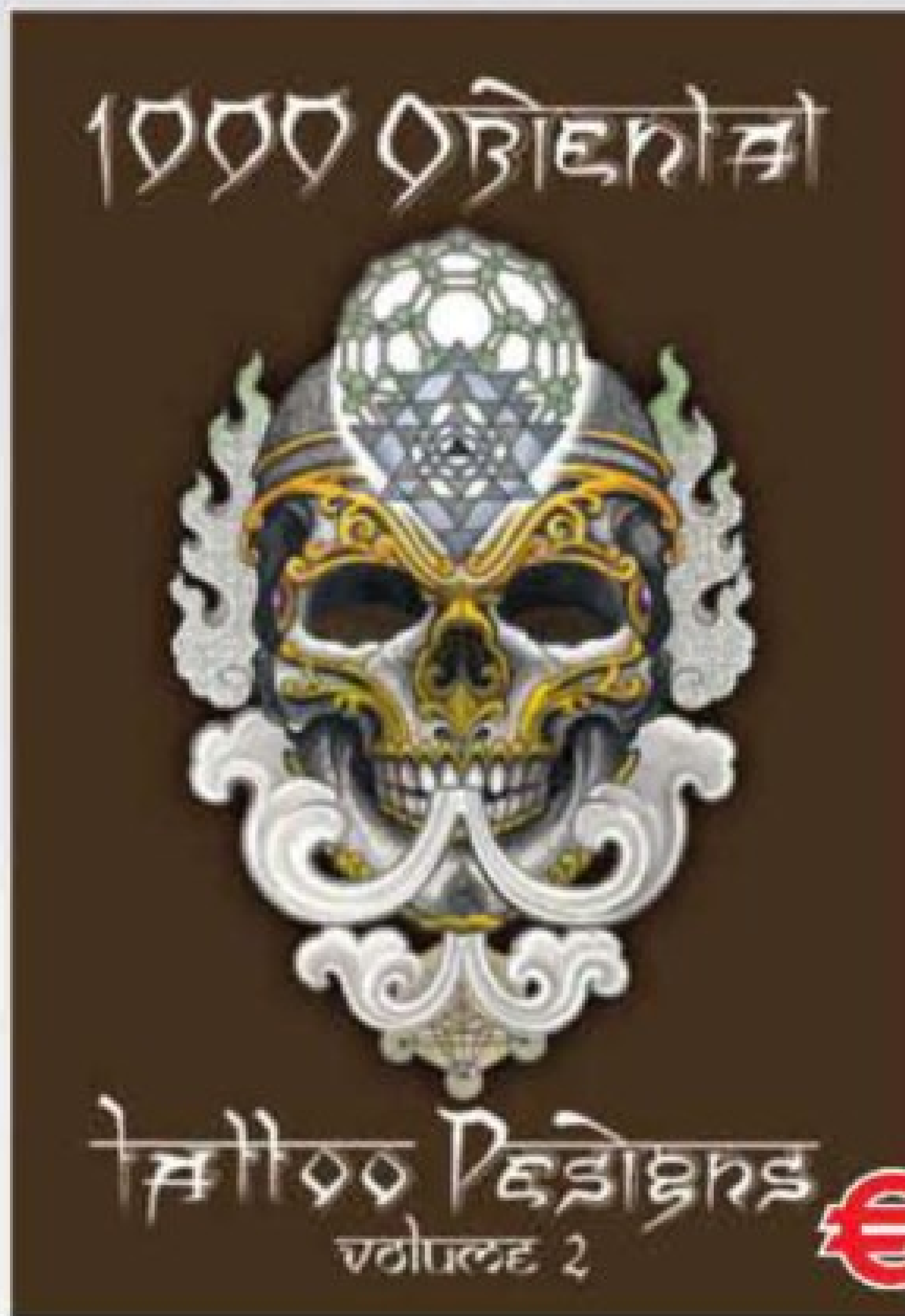
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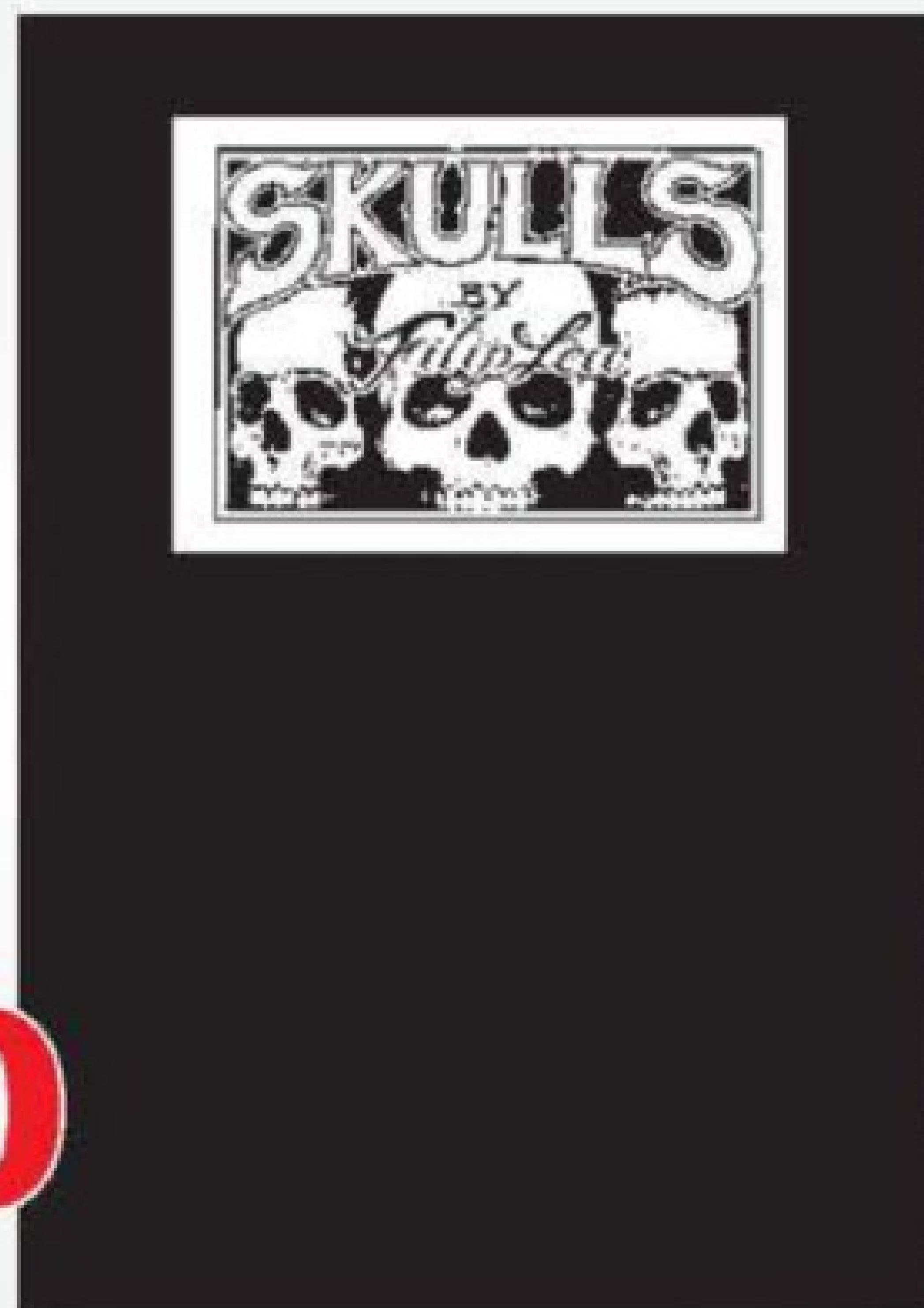
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*Tattoo Flash*



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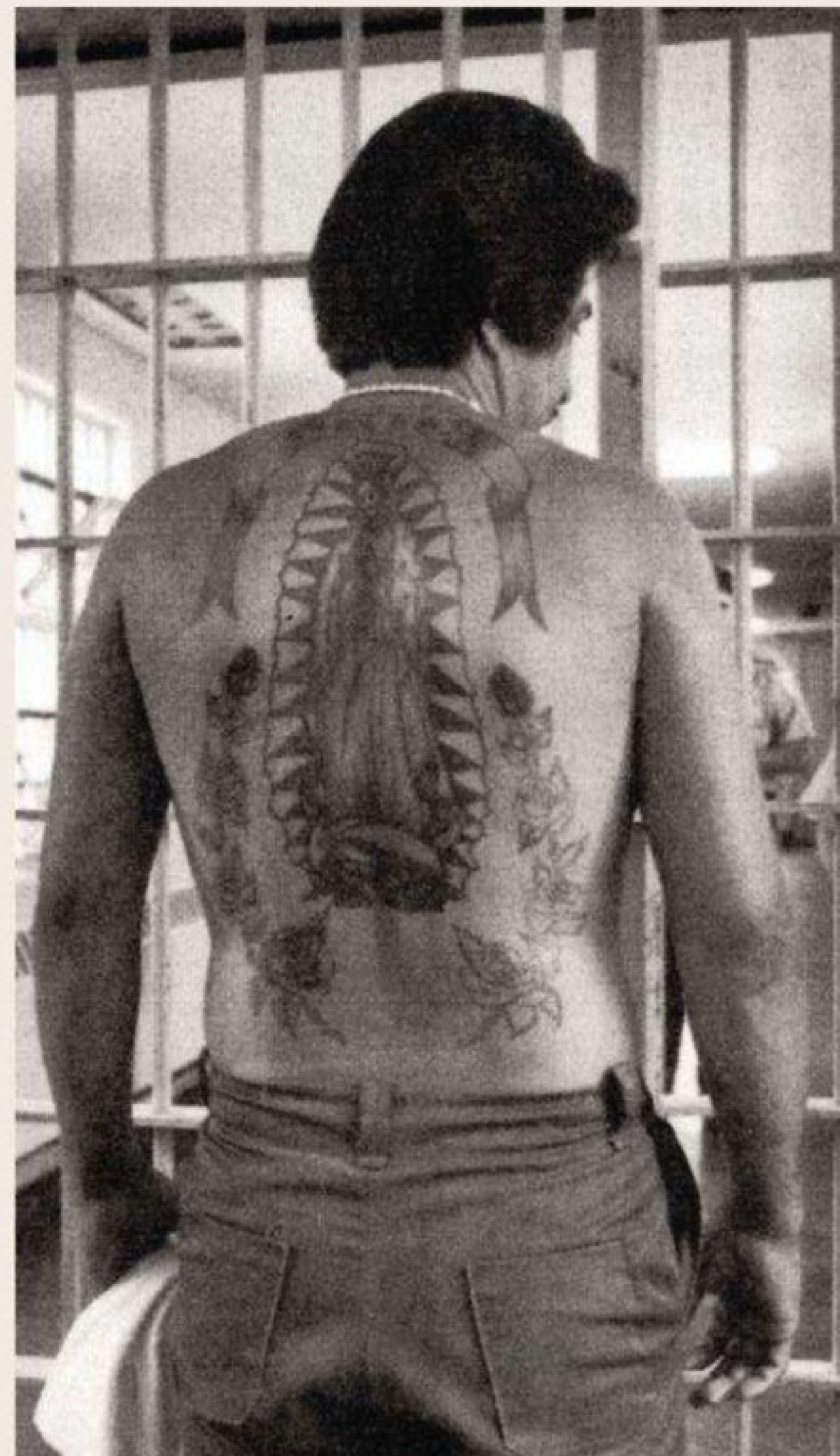
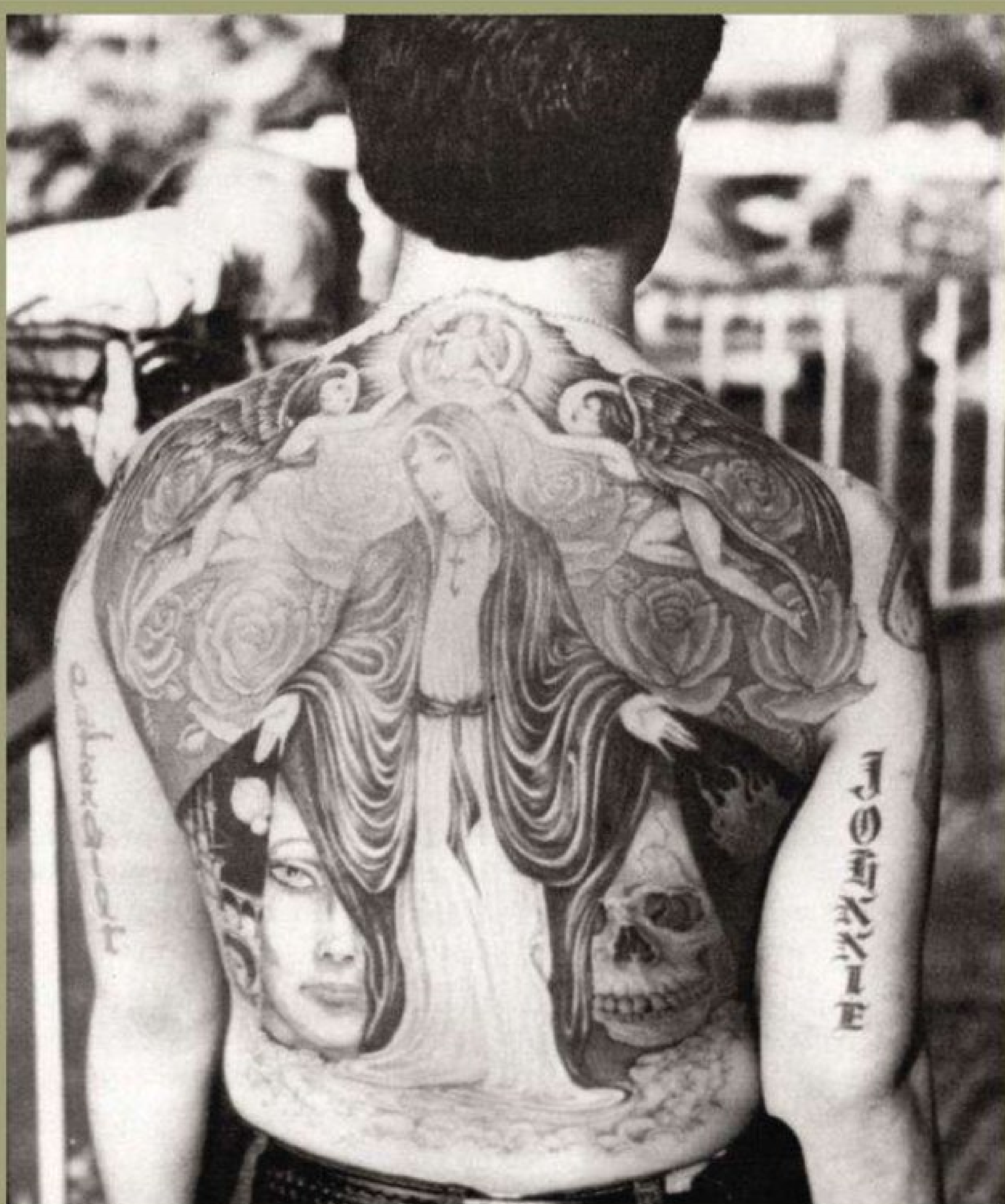
The beating heart of Chicano California in the truest black and grey fine line style marked Lowrider Tattoo. From the heart of Lowrider Tattoo in almost 100 sheets, the traditional iconography of Chicano culture made by Jose Lopez, Tattoo Tony and Adrian 'Spider' Castrejon. From the streets to the prisons, ladies projected into the most "cholo" male universe become warrior "ladies", undisputed protagonists of these works, with rifles, cartridges, jokers, crosses and symbols of the pre-Hispanic populations. A perfect team that screams out a powerful culture and represents one of the most beloved tattoo styles of all times.



# CHICANO TATTOO

BY LUISA GNECCHI RUSCONE

*The term "Chicanos" is used to define US citizens of Mexican origin. For Mexicans on the other hand, the term "Chicanos" means: "the poorest of the poorest". They have two types of tattoo: the one used in prisons by the prisoners belonging to Hispanic gangs and the one done on the streets that even very young guys like to get. For both groups it especially represents a way to express the pride and honor of belonging to their ethnic group and gang.*



East L. A. Madonna. Sacramento, 1980. Tattoo by Freddy Negrete. Photograph by Alan Govenar

The Virgin of Guadalupe





Mexican charra tattoo with praying hands, New Mexico State Penitentiary, 1985. Ph. Alan Govenar

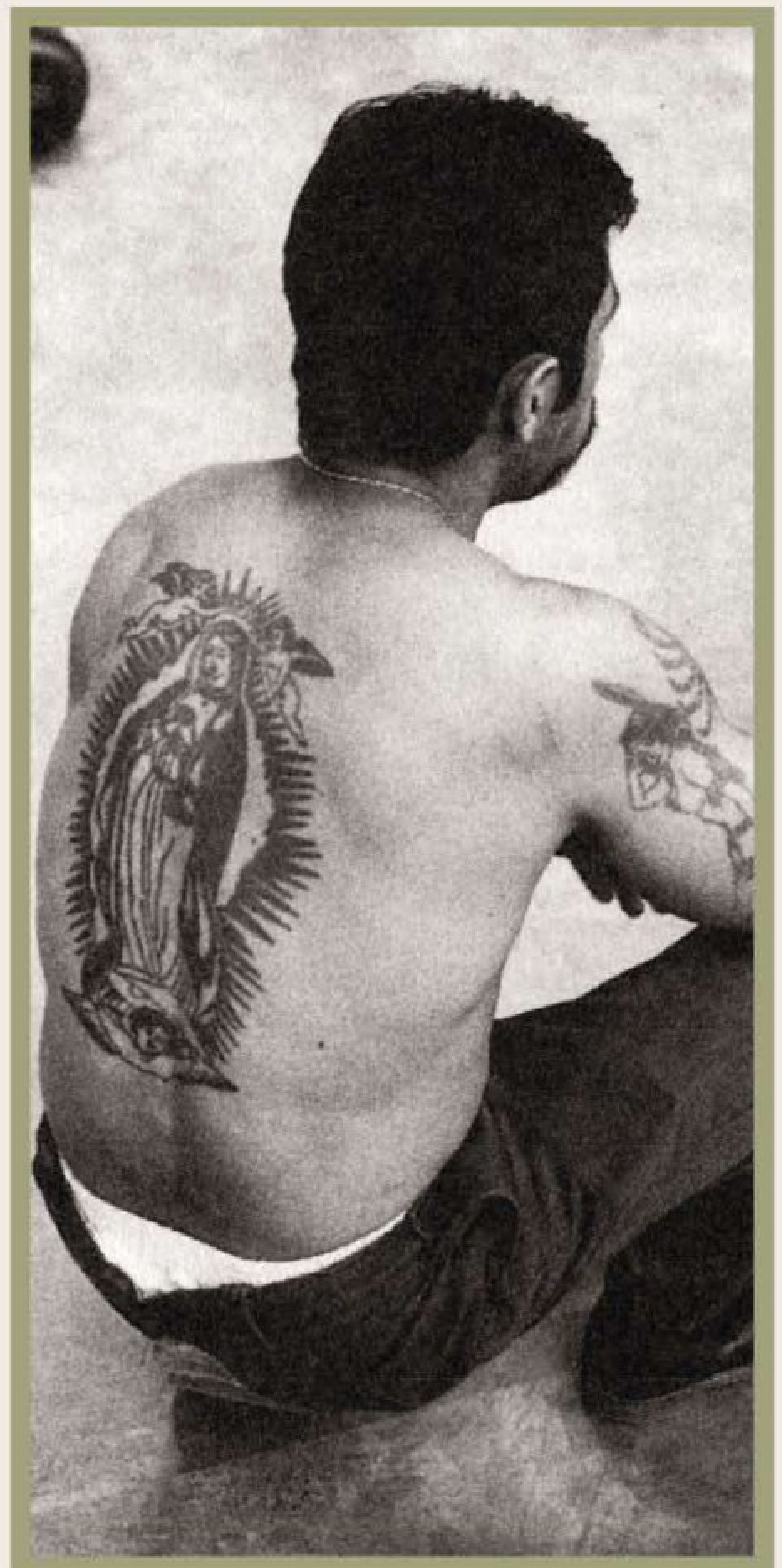


Virgen de Guadalupe tattoo, New Mexico State Penitentiary, 1985. Ph. Alan Govenar

**H**ispanic gangs boast a past of fierce wars that have lasted for over 40 years between the Hispanics of northern California and those of southern California: the gangsters of both sides continue to support this war and show loyalty to their gang showing off their tattoos. Many members of the Hispanic gangs have a fairly good artistic talent which is expressed through their graffiti and in tattoos that, even if done in prison, are in no way inferior to those made in professional studios.

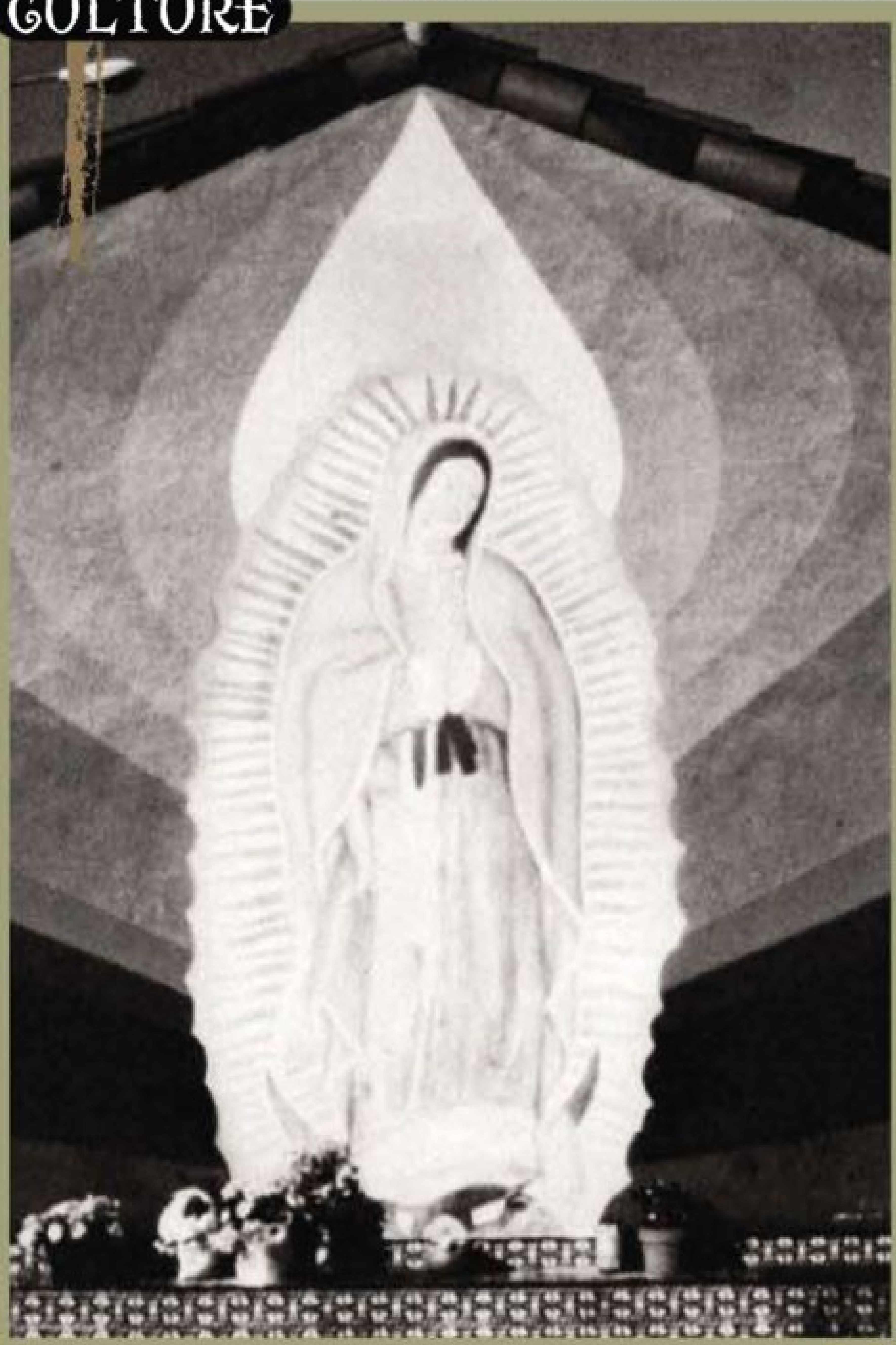
After becoming part of a gang, the new member proudly undergoes the test of resistance to pain that basically means they get the name of the gang tattooed in shaded characters on their skin. Often this is done as a test of courage on the head or neck, because the wearer knows that, besides gaining the trust of the other members of the gang, showing off the tattoo is also a provocation for the rival gangs, which will force him to fight with them. The most popular tattoos among Hispanic gangsters are: three dots tattooed in a pyramid shape that mean "mi vida loca" (my crazy life), the design of a happy face right next to a sad one ("have fun now, you will be sad later"), tears, spider-webs, prison walls with surveillance towers, bobbed wires, flowers, butterflies, posters with name of a girlfriend or mother, racing cars, bullets, the Mexican flag and

Aztec symbols. Another popular tradition among Chicanos is the passion for religious tattoos: the religious tattoos of the Chicanos refer to the tattoo tradition of Copt and Abyssinian Christians of the villages around Jerusalem and in North Africa. In the iconography of Copt and Abyssinian tattoo, both modern and that of hundreds of years ago, there are the images of Christ, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection and a small cross usually tattooed on the wrist or hand around the thumb and forefinger. All these designs are very popular among the Chicanos of the urban areas (barrios) of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. It is possible that – as historian John Carswell wrote in 1958 – : "the cross was designed on Christians prisoners during the beginning of Christianity and the Crusaders later adopted this custom proudly showing off a small cross tattooed above the wrist".



The Virgin of Guadalupe





Virgen de Guadalupe mural, East Los Angeles, 1983.  
Ph. Alan Govenar



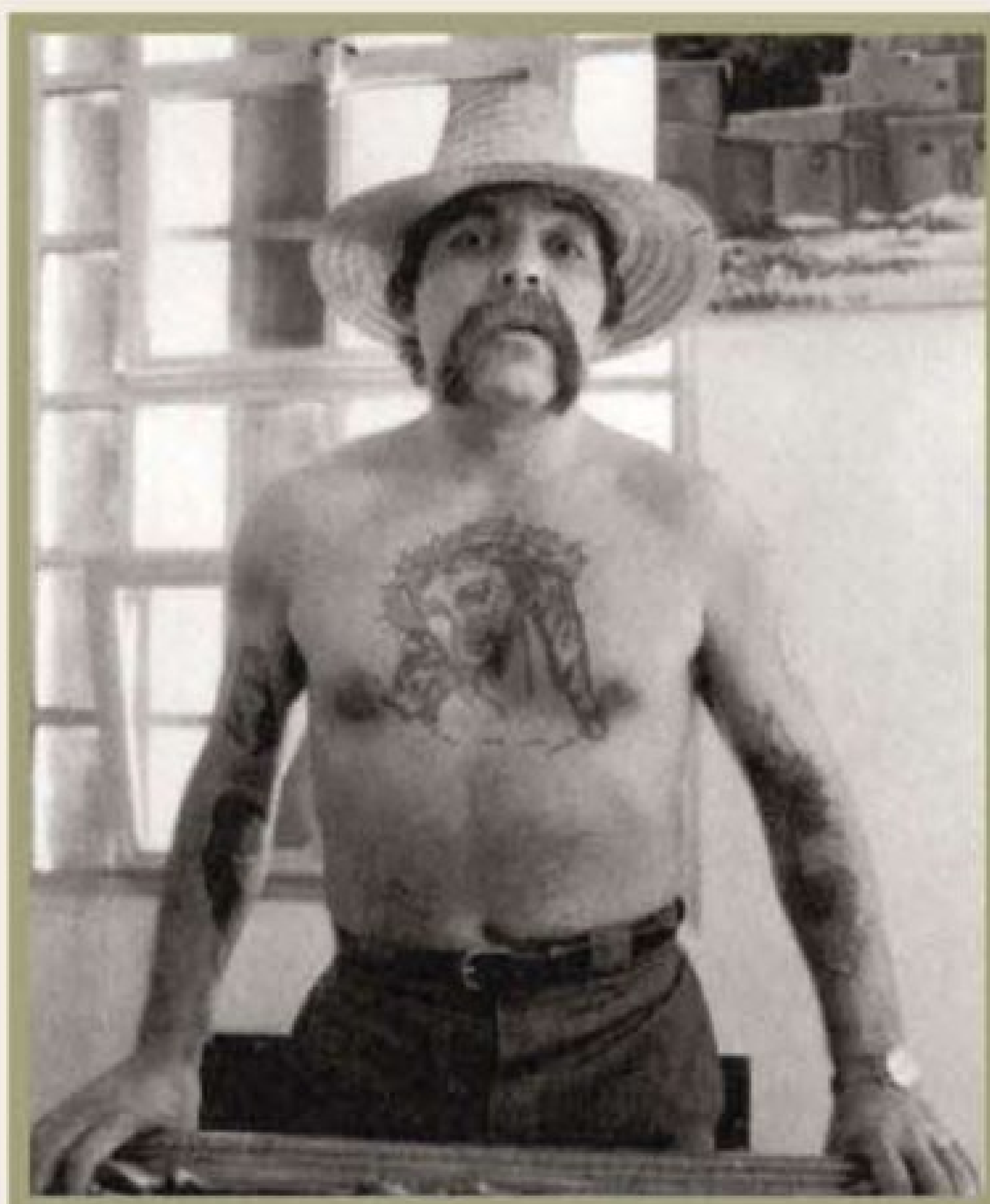
Virgen de Guadalupe tattoo by Gilbert Coriz, Santa Fe, 1985.  
Ph. by Alan Govenar

Among the Chicanos of the "barrios" the most popular form of tattoo is freehand tattoo. Sylvia Orozco who deals with all types of tattoos and particularly freehand tattoo as an expression of identity and pride of the Chicanos, writes: "In the world of the Chicanos, freehand tattoo is not absolutely considered amateur, it is rather considered a form of art. The Chicanos have always gotten tattoos without using technology because it would be too expensive to go to a professional studio and because most of them prefer handmade tattoos. Still today they prefer to get tattooed for the most diverse reasons: to express feelings and devotions, to be more attractive sexually speaking and as a mark of belonging to a group. Tattoo is still considered a form of expression, a personal art. As in literature there is a Chicano literature, in politics, there is also Chicano politics and for tattoo there is also Chicano tattoo."

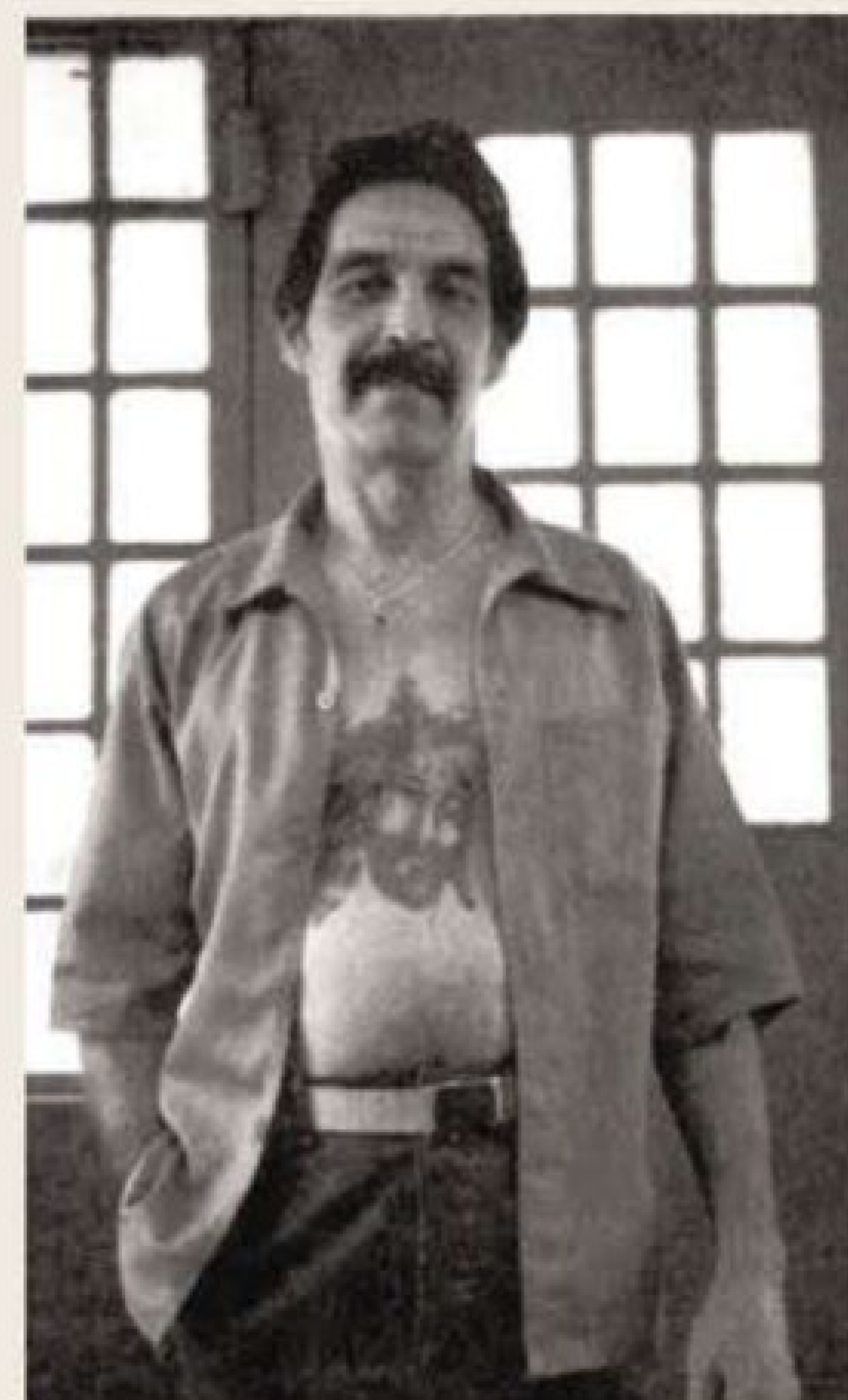
Tattoos in the "barrios" is a complex phenomenon that has social, economic and political implications. The impulse

to get tattooed can be religious and it is expressed by tattooing religious symbols ranging from a small cross on the hand to a Virgin of Guadalupe that covers the entire back. Or it can have a social-political meaning and in this case it uses the symbols of "La

Aguila" (United Farmworker Eagle) or slogans such as "Chicanos Unidos" or gang symbols such as small crosses, initials or other esoteric symbols. Even though there are no official statistics, on-site observations lead us to think that religious tattoos are



Leonardo Baca

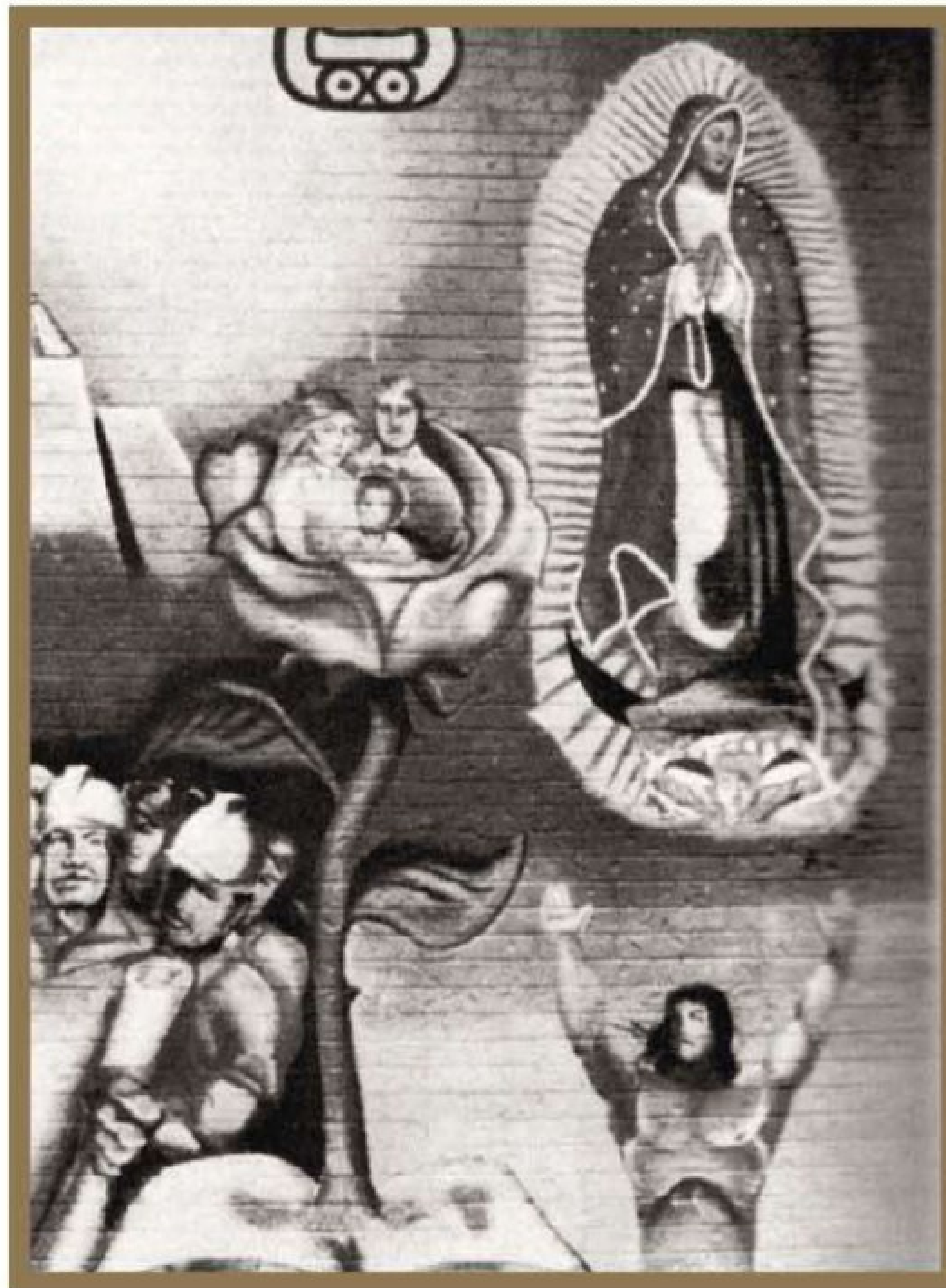


Douglas Kent Hall. 'In Prison', Henry Hold





Lawrence Honrada's back, Santa Fe, 1982. Ph. Alan Govenar



Virgen de Guadalupe mural, San Antonio, 1981. Ph Alan Govenar

the most popular and widespread. Religious tattoos in the barrios don't only have a religious meaning: in the 40's and 50's the gangs of Pachucos – as a mark of belonging to their gang – used to get a small cross tattooed between the thumb and forefinger of the hand. For the outside world, the cross tattooed on the hand became a symbol of violence and criminality.

Not all Chicanos with a cross tattooed on their hand are criminals though. Many teenagers, aged 12 and 13, get these same symbols tattooed to copy street bullies - the "vita loca" – and not all of them belong to a gang but they all have tattoos on their hands: "It is something you do with your brothers, as an expression of a strong feeling of brotherhood". In prison it is prohibited and tattoos are done in hidden places so guards don't see: "And if they see you they take away the machine and the ink, and if the tattoo gets infected you can be sued for damages to state property". Prison tattoos are more complex than street tattoos. In the Barrio most

of the amateur tattoos are done by hand using sewing needles, whereas in prison they are done using rotary electric machines, using the motor of a record player connected to a guitar string that moves inside the tube of a pen vibrating up and down. Through this technique, prison tattooists are able to make very thin lines and detailed shading, which would be impossible with sewing needles. Both prison tattoos and street tattoos are mono-chromatic, only black. Handmade amateur tattoos are not very expensive, in prison a prisoner can get a tattoo in exchange for cigarettes or favors, very frequently prisoners simply exchange tattoos. So, by tattooing each other, the prisoners learn how to tattoo. Only when one becomes a master he can ask for more money. Among Chicanos of the emerging classes, tattoo, especially handmade, is considered a symbol of the lower classes and it is strongly discouraged in school and church. Many kids, when they grow up get their handmade tattoos covered up with other machine-made tattoos to

have a higher social consideration. In the Oriental neighborhoods of Los Angeles there is a mural with a hand and the numbers "666" tattooed on it near the words, in English and Spanish, "La manca della bestia" and "The mark of the beast". This mural has been there since the 80's, but most of the other ones have been covered with new works, thus proving that this message has a very important meaning in the community.

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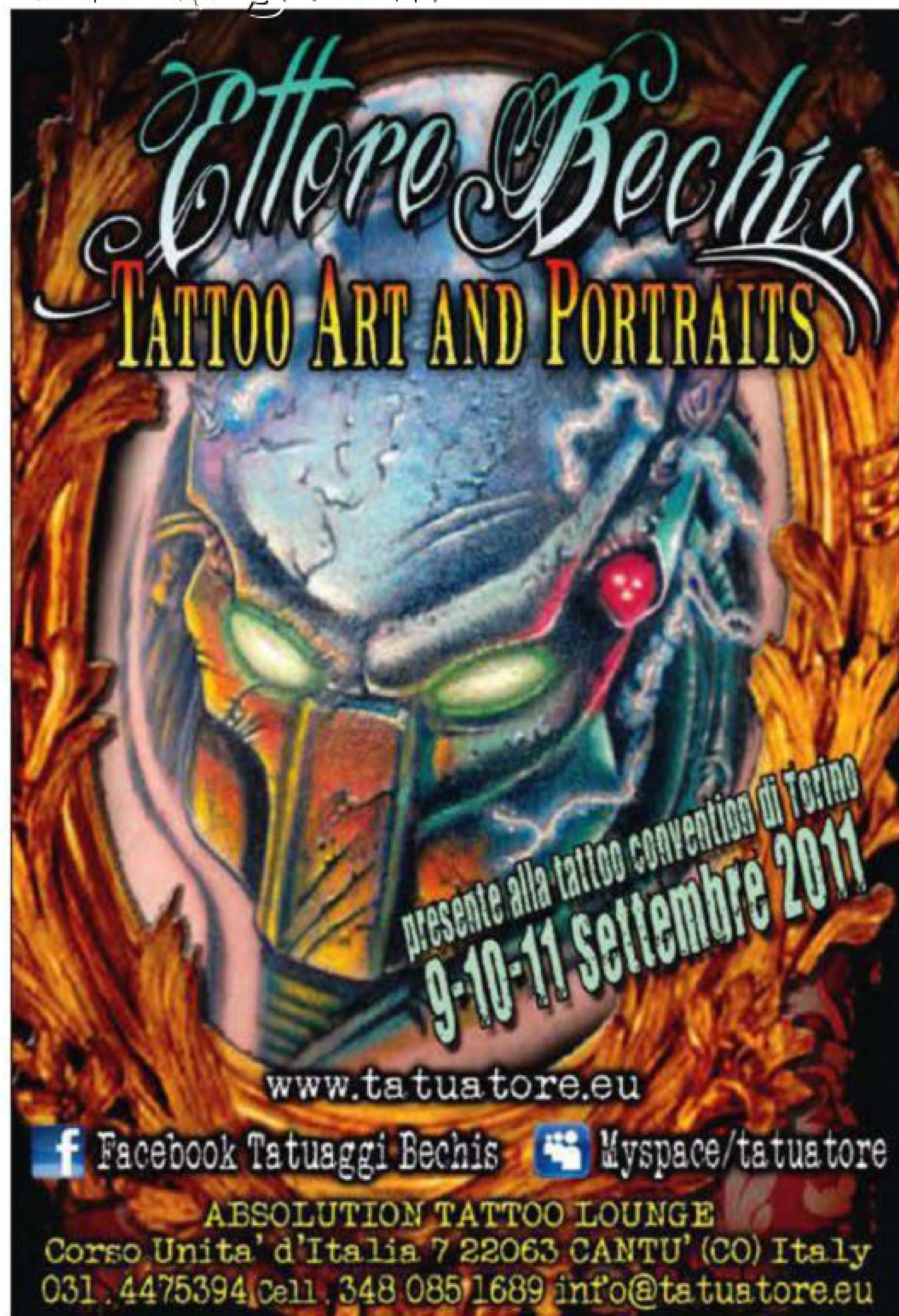
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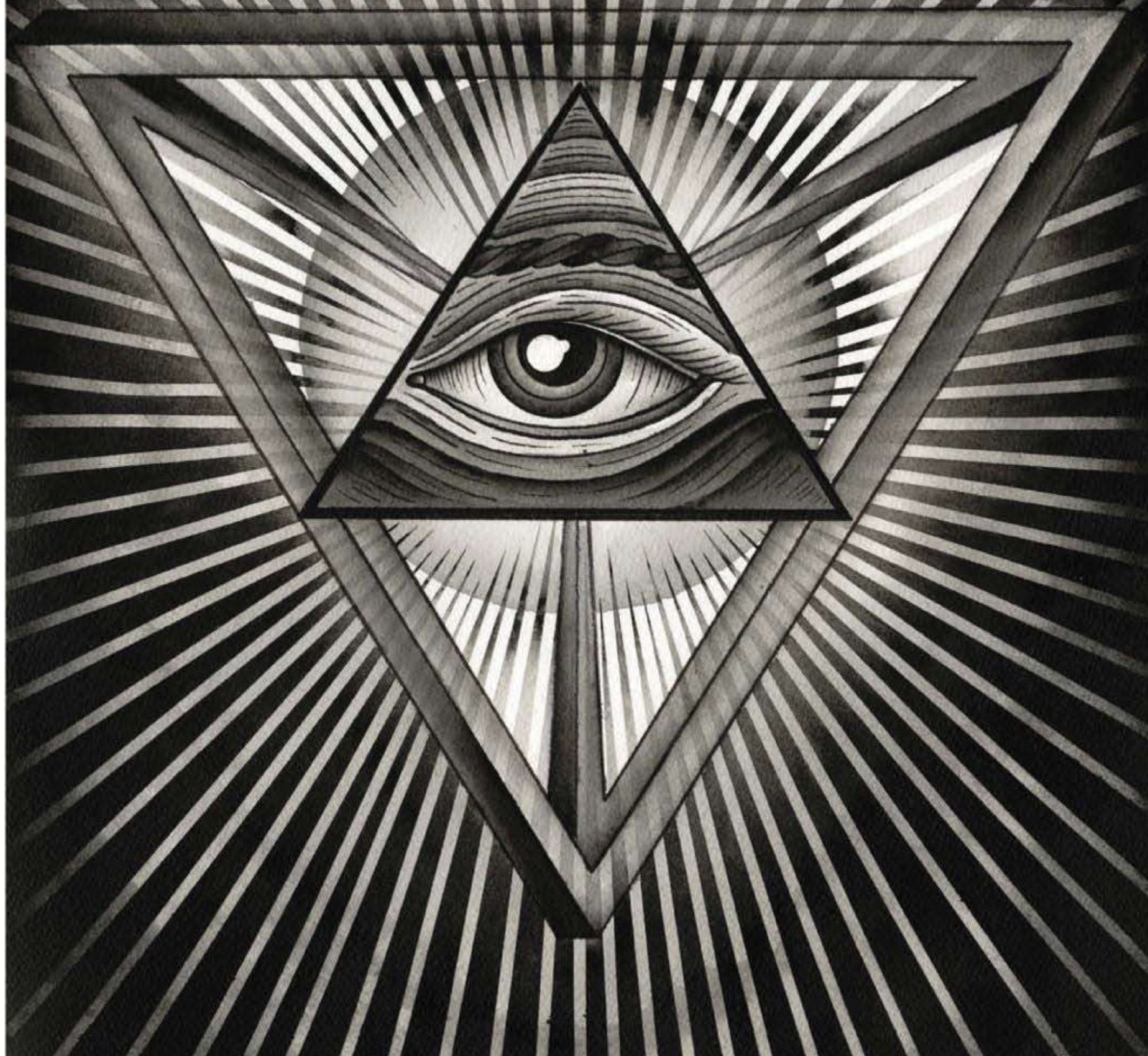
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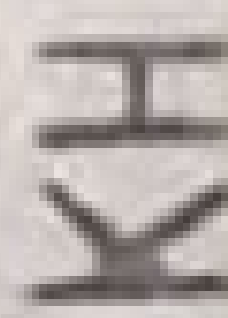
one tattoo session. I have used many of these images on t-shirts and in my other paintings, they are subjects and images that I really love to create and explore.

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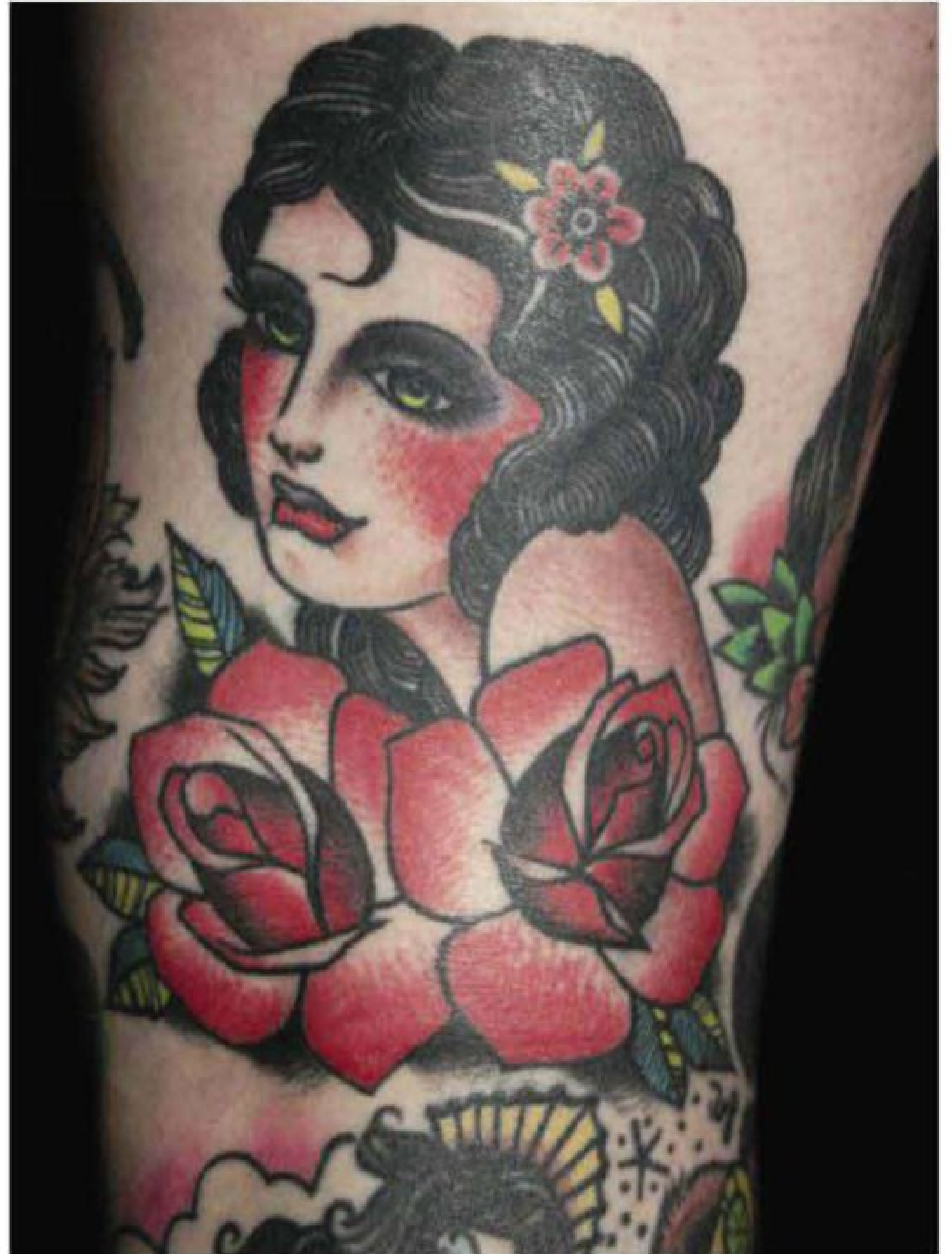


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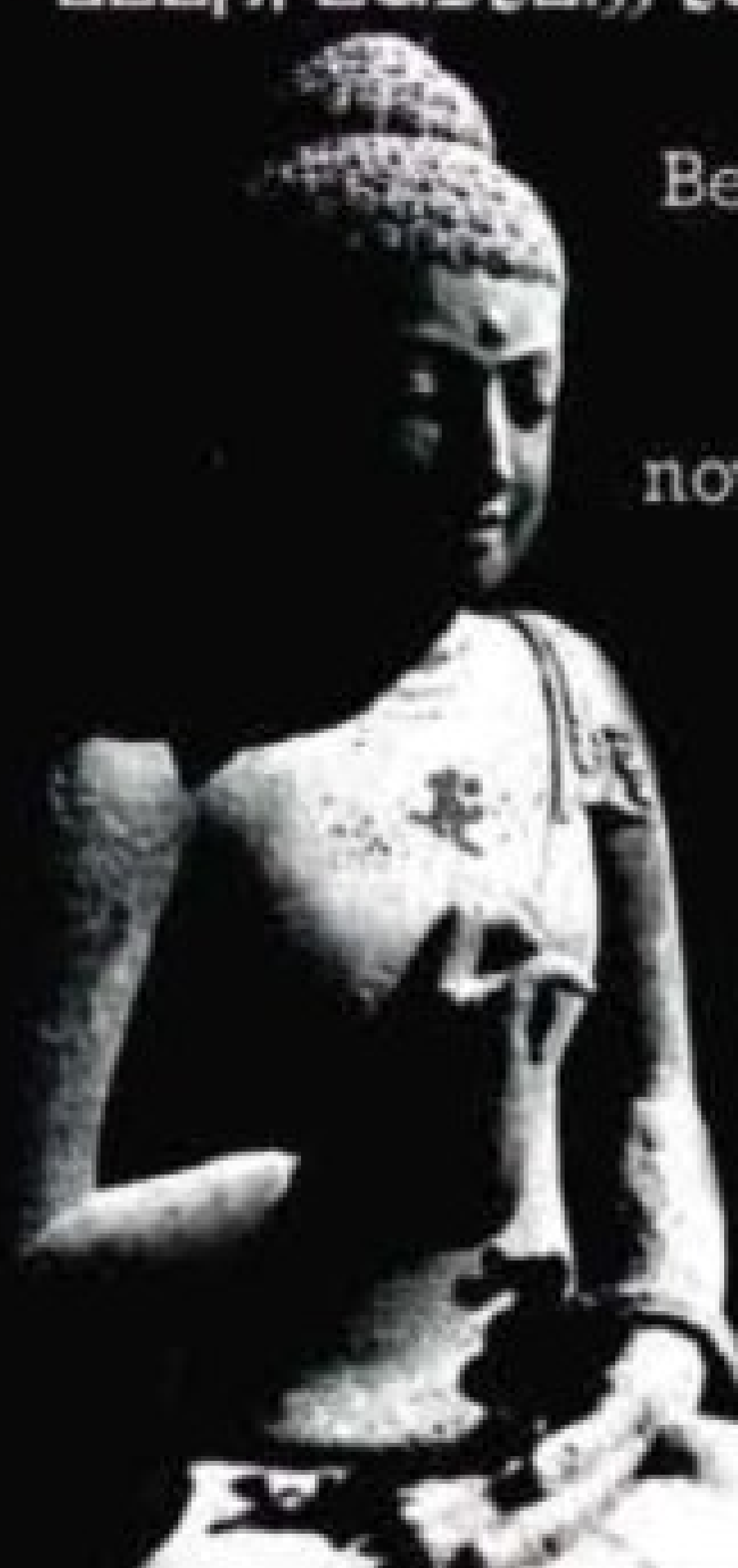
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